Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-068 *8 April 1988*

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LD081407 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan

UN mediator Diego Cordovez announced 8 April that a definitive peace agreement has been reached in Geneva and that the documents will be signed no later than 14 April, AFP reported. Cordovez' statement followed talks with Afghan Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil, who likewise affirmed that the agreement is "ready for signature," the agency noted.

In Tashkent, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev confirmed that the USSR intends to begin its troop withdrawal 15 May, though he said this should not be regarded as a "present" to President Reagan on the eve of the latter's visit to the Soviet Union, Moscow radio's English service reported. Gorbachev had earlier stated in remarks broadcast by Moscow television that the process of a political settlement regarding Afghanistan is now "coming to an end." He expressed confidence that Pakistan and Afghanistan will sign an agreement, adding that he believes the USSR and United States will agree to guarantee it. The talks with Afghan President Najibullah were "very important" and dealt with "the very last outstanding questions," Gorbachev said.

Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani welcomed the Soviet-Afghan statement issued in Tashkent, confirming that Pakistan is ready to sign the agreement in Geneva if Afghanistan and the two guarantors are likewise ready to sign, Islamabad radio reported. Pakistani President Ziaul Haq disclosed to the Pakistani parliament that he has received unofficial reports of a Soviet-U.S. agreement on the question of "symmetry" in the provision of further assistance to the warring parties in Afghanistan, the radio noted.

Hijacked Kuwaiti Airliner

The hijacked Boeing 747 took off for an unknown destination at 1058 GMT 8 April after Iranian officials had removed barriers at Mashhad airport in response to the hijackers' threats to kill a passenger, IRNA announced. Before leaving, the hijackers sent a radio message to the amir of Kuwait warning that they will blow up the plane if he does not give a positive response to their demands, the agency noted. Iranian officials warned the hijackers that all airports throughout the world are closed to them. Iranian authorities had earlier allowed the plane to refuel, Tehran radio reported, adding that Iran was forced to do this to save the lives of the passengers and crew.

The Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry informed the Iranian charge d'affaires of Kuwait's objection to any step to allow the plane to leave Mashhad airport, KUNA noted. Nevertheless, an emergency session of the Kuwaiti Cabinet commended Iran's "good efforts" to resolve the issue, according to Kuwait radio. On the identity of the hijackers, MENA cited a report by Kuwait's AL-QABAS that they are four in number, three of them Lebanese and the other Bahraini. Kuwait's ARAB TIMES reported earlier that four collaborators of the hijackers have been arrested in Bangkok and identified as members of Hizballah.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq continued its missile bombardment of Iran, announcing that it fired a total of 11 missiles at Iranian cities 7 April and 4 more the following morning. According to announcements over Voice of the Masses radio, five "Al-Husayn" missiles were fired at Tehran, four at Esfahan, and two at Qom, Karaj, and Tabriz. A communique carried by Baghdad radio also announced 11 air strikes on Iranian cities 7 April. The targets included Dezful, Masjed-e Solayman, Hamadan, and Bakhtaran. Further raids on Hamadan and Bakhtaran later the same day were reported in a military statement broadcast by Voice of the Masses. Iraqi planes also attacked a "very large" maritime target off the Iranian coast, the statement added.

For Iran's part, IRNA reported that the IRGC fired two missiles at Baghdad 8 April as well as two at Mosul and one at Al-'Amarah. The agency said this was in retaliation for the Iraqi attacks. Iraqi statements carried by Voice of the Masses and INA reported that casualties were inflicted by Iranian missile attacks on Baghdad 7 and 8 April and by Iranian air raids on Irbil and Al-'Amadiyah. Iranian media gave no specific casualty figures for the latest Iraqi attacks, though IRNA noted that "dozens" of civilians were killed in missile and air raids the morning of 7 April.

Iran will shortly begin mass production of a missile with a range of over 130 km, Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Jalali disclosed in a television roundtable discussion cited by IRNA.

Lebanon

Amal-Hizballah Cease-fire—Amal Movement and Hizballah representatives agreed on a cease-fire during a meeting in Beirut attended by the Iranian ambassador, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Beirut radio subsequently confirmed that calm had returned to the areas of the south where 51 people were killed and 130 wounded in the "ferocious" fighting between the two groups 6-7 April. The radio noted that Amal regained control of the coastal road in the Al-Ghaziyah area, south of Sidon, during the clashes on 7 April.

Voice of National Resistance radio had earlier cited an appeal by Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah for youths on both sides to stop fighting and "point your weapons at the enemies rather than each other." The radio added that the Iranian Embassy had called for an immediate cease-fire. The Amal Movement issued a

statement accusing Hizballah of plotting to "cut a slice off the south" and restore the conditions which prevailed before 1982, according to the Voice of Lebanon.

Amal leader Nabih Birri alleged that eight Amal members were found hanged in Al-Ghaziyah following Amal's recapture of the village from Hizballah, the radio noted. Voice of Lebanon also disclosed that a number of Hizballah fighters have surrendered to Amal and pointed out that Amal is estimated to have 30,000 fighters in contrast to 5,000 in Hizballah.

Attack on IDF—Four IDF soldiers were wounded when their vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in southern Lebanon 8 April, Jerusalem radio reported. The incident occurred near the village of Markaba, inside Israel's "security zone."

Israel

An IDF debriefing on the 6 April incident in Bayta indicates that the Israeli girl who died was hit in the head by a bullet fired by one of the weapons possessed by the Israeli group's escorts, Jerusalem television reported. An IDF source also noted that when local residents seized these weapons, their magazines were already empty, the report added. However, these disclosures about the girl's death were not corroborated by Jerusalem radio's report on the IDF debriefing, which stated that the girl was killed by a stone thrown by the mother of one of the slain Arabs. However, the radio said the IDF report indicates the Bayta villagers did not intend to harm the children, because they could have killed a large number if this were their intention.

Meanwhile, an Arab youth was shot dead in Bayta while fleeing from IDF soldiers, Jerusalem radio noted. Security forces also demolished five houses in the village that belonged to people who had actively participated in the attacks on the Jewish children. Settlers from Elon More entered another Arab village, fired several shots, and attempted to set a house on fire before being sent away by the IDF, the radio said. Settler leaders began a sit-down strike outside the prime minister's house in Jerusalem, according to Jerusalem television. They are calling for the establishment of 26 new settlements, the restoration of IDF "deterrent power," the expulsion of agitators, the execution of murderers, the closure of Arab newspapers in East Jerusalem, and termination of contacts with Secretary of State George Shultz.

In other developments, two Arab youths were wounded in further disturbances in the territories, one in Gaza and the other in Qabatiyah, Jerusalem radio reported.

Shultz Tour

A "responsible" Jordanian source cited by Radio Monte Carlo revealed that Jordan presented Secretary of State Shultz with a written document outlining three basic conditions which Jordan "insists" on including in the U.S. peace plan. These principles are: convening an effective international conference; Palestinian representation at the conference through the PLO; and negotiations to be based on land for peace and Israel's complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967. A related commentary by Amman's AL-RA'Y maintained that Jordan's "firm' stand on these principles was received with "deep appreciation" by the Arabs and the paper added that "either there is a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace or there is no peace."

Shultz' 7 April meeting with Saudi King Fahd was reported by Riyadh radio, which listed the participants but gave no details of the talks. Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil held talks with Shultz in Cyprus 8 April, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, noting they reviewed all aspects of the Lebanese issue, including progress in U.S.-Syrian talks on political reforms.

PLO

In a TASS interview following his arrival in the USSR, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat asserted that Secretary of State Shultz is trying to force the Arabs into a U.S. settlement of the Palestine issue that disregards the PLO and fails to offer self-determination for the Palestinians. Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's political adviser, told Radio Monte Carlo in Cairo that 'Arafat will outline the PLO stand to Soviet leaders in preparation for their talks with Shultz on 21 April. Al-Hasan will meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak 9 April, the radio noted.

Another PLO official, Khalil al-Wazir, concluded a visit to Libya during which Libyan officials declared that the Jamahiriyah will contribute $4 million each month to help consolidate the Palestinian "uprising" in the West Bank and Gaza, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported.

Iran

Elections—Tehran radio announced that voting for the third Majlis elections began 8 April, noting that Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni was among those who voted. Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami told Tehran television that there are 1,700 candidates contesting the 270 seats.

Criticism of Saudis—An 8 April Tehran radio commentary asserted that Saudi Arabia's acquisition of Chinese long range missiles will not change the regional strategic balance in favor of Arab "reactionaries" because "revolutionaries" do not fear being targeted by such missiles. As for the possibility of a Saudi-Israeli confrontation over the missiles, the radio said this is "completely nonexistent" and the Saudi missiles will "never threaten Israel." The radio claimed there are "no fundamental or strategic conflicts" between Israel and the Saudi Kingdom, which has "never endangered the occupying Zionist regime" despite receiving modern weapons.

In another development, the Iranian oil minister blamed Saudi Arabia for triggering a recent oil price slide, asserting this is a new attempt to pressure Iran into accepting UN Resolution 598, according to IRNA.

Libya-Tunisia

Tunisians can henceforth enter Libya at any time without a passport or visa and subject to no restrictions or conditions, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared in a speech at the Tunisian border broadcast by Tripoli television. Tunisians will also be able to live in Libya and enjoy the same rights as Libyans, he said. While urging the "masses" throughout the Arab world to follow this lead and abolish borders, Al-Qadhdhafi stressed that the removal of borders would constitute no threat to any Arab regime.

Syria

Beirut sources cited by the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD stated that Syria has been negotiating with the Soviet Union on the acquisition of Tupolev-22 bombers, Mig-31 fighters, and Antonov-124 transport aircraft, WAKH reported. The report said Syria will begin receiving these aircraft this year, noting that talks on the deal were held during the visit to Damascus of Marshal Yefimov, commander in chief of the Soviet Air Force.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Justice Ministers Begin Fourth Working Session

LD040901 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 4 (KUNA)—The Arab justice ministers started here Monday their fourth working session to continue discussions of remaining topics listed on the agenda.

The meetings of the sixth session of the Arab Justice Ministerial Council will be concluded here with the announcement this evening of a set of resolutions and recommendations.

Today the Arab delegates will discuss financial affairs, a draft programme on the Ministerial Council's work in addition to organizational measures.

They will also sign the Amman Arab agreement for commercial arbitration.

The Arab justice ministers last night discussed activities of the Arab Justice Ministerial Council's Secretariat and the Arab Center for Legal and Judicial Research.

During the past two days of their meetings the ministers endorsed Kuwait's document of the Arab unified law on personal status and Kuwait's document on Arab strategy for joint justice work.

The countries participating in the current justice meetings here are Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Yemen Arab Republic, People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, in addition to the host country Kuwait.

Conclude Working Session

LD041127 Kuwait KUNA in English 1050 GMT 4 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 4 (KUNA)—The Arab justice ministers concluded here Monday their fourth closed-door meeting after discussing remaining issues listed on their agenda.

The ministers are scheduled to hold this evening a public session to announce recommendations.

Meanwhile, following the fourth session today, Kuwait justice minister and chairman of the sixth session of Arab Justice Minister Council Dari al-'Uthman in a statement to KUNA, hailed the cooperation and understanding between the participating delegations during the deliberations.

He noted that all issues listed on the justice ministers' agenda were discussed and affirmed that the three-day deliberations were enough to cover all topics of the agenda.

Asked by KUNA if the justice ministers have tackled political issues concerning the Middle East, Al-'Uthman said that the conferees have only discussed judicial matters.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat, Delegation Leave for USSR

JN071159 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1133 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tunis, 7 Apr (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left for Moscow today leading a delegation of PLO Executive Committee members in response to an official Soviet invitation.

Palestinian sources in Tunis said that during his visit 'Arafat will hold talks with the Soviet leaders on the results of Shultz' tour of the region, developments regarding the convening of an international conference on the Middle East issue, and a review of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

PLO Executive Committee members Sulayman al-Najjab, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Abu 'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri] arrived in Moscow last night.

'Arafat Reiterates Rejection of U.S. Initiative

LD070309 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0000 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] During his meeting yesterday in Tunis with Mr Claude Cheysson, representative of the EEC commission in charge of Mediterranean policies and north-south relations, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, reiterated his rejection of the U.S. initiative and called on the EEC to undertake a more effective role in achieving peace in the Middle East.

PLO's Abu Sharif Updates 'Uprising' Toll

JN072049 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tunis, 7 Apr (INA)—Bassam Abu Sharif, an adviser to Yasir 'Arafat has said that 282 Palestinians have been martyred so far since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Tunis, he added that the number of those wounded has reached 3,214, while the figure of those detained has risen to 15,000.

Abu Sharif affirmed that the barbarous crimes being perpetrated by the Zionist occupation troops in the Arab territories will neither discourage the Palestinian people nor end their resistance to the occupation authorities and their criminal practices.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Soviet-Kabul Statement on Afghan Issue Welcomed

BK080158 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and the leader of the Kabul regime, Dr Najibullah, have called for the immediate signing of Geneva accord on an Afghan settlement and said they believe the longest obstacle to an agreement has been removed. This is contained in a joint statement issued after their talks in Tashkent today.

In Geneva, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has welcomed the Soviet-Kabul statement. He said Pakistan is ready to sign the agreement if Kabul and the two guarantors are also ready to sign.

Chad

Envoy to France Sees Libyan Terms as 'Diktat'

AB071359 Paris AFP in French 1035 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Paris, 7 Apr (AFP)—The conditions put forth by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi for his recognition of the government of Ndjamena are the equivalent of a "diktat and an ultimatum," the Chadian ambassador to France, Ahmad Allam-mi, said today in Paris. There were four conditions set by Col al-Qadhdhafi in an interview with the Yugoslav news agency, TANJUG: The Aozou region (in the extreme north of Chad) should be declared Libyan territory; an armistice should be concluded between Chadian President Hissein Habre and his opponent Goukouni Oueddei, "foreign troops" should be withdrawn from Chad; and Libyans held prisoner in Chad should be released.

Mr Allam-mi said: "This statement demonstrates Libya's desire to maintain a claim over Chad, which Al-Qadhdhafi regards as Libyan living space, and its expansionist policy. Al-Qadhdhafi dictates his conditions and sets a deadline—before the OAU summit scheduled for the end of April in Addis Ababa—by which Ndjamena must accept them. That is actually a diktat and an ultimatum. His statement barely conceals his bad faith and his belligerent intentions: 20,000 Libyan soldiers and nearly 800 armored vehicles are massed in northern Chad," he continued.

"If Al-Qadhdhafi wants to show his good faith, he should cooperate sincerely with the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict, and should agree to participate in the summit postponed several times because of his refusal," Mr Allam-mi added.

Radio Commentary Rejects Libya's 'Conditions'

AB072102 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In addition to the military preparations, notably the stationing of over 20,000 soldiers and about 800 armored vehicles around the western, northern, and eastern borders of Chad, Al-Qadhdhafi has just enumerated a series of conditions for his recognition of the Chadian Government. These are, in fact, obstacles which the (?tyrant) of Tripoli places in the way of the OAU ad hoc committee in charge of settling the border conflict between Chad and Libya.

Each time the OAU ad hoc committee plans to meet to discuss this conflict, the terrorist in power in Tripoli creats obstacles to compromise it. Recent events have amply demonstrated this. This time Al-Qadhdhafi seen fit to enumerate a series of conditions for his recognition of the Chadian Government.

These conditions are as follows: The Aozou region must be declared Libyan territory; an armistice should be concluded between the president of the Republic of Chad, El Hadj Hissein Habre, and Tripoli's henchman, Goukouni Oueddei; and Libyan prisoners of war should be released. These vulgar conditions are not new. It is therefore not futile to react to them. But Al- Qadhdhafi himself is aware they are all unacceptable for Chad. He has laid down these conditions with the sole aim of compromising the OAU ad hoc committee's summit in Addis Ababa. He did not hide his intentions by proposing that an agreement in this direction be reached before this summit.

But it is proper to remind the Libyans that Chad, being a sovereign independent state whose government has the ear of a wide domestic and international audience, needs in no way at all any sort of recognition by the Libyan authorities to run the affairs of the country. Rather, the Tripoli regime, established on the basis of force and terrorism, should be concerned about its own situation because it is isolated on the international scene, and contested and fought against within Libya itself.

On the one hand, this declaration by the Libyan terrorist once again confirms the desire of the Libyan regime not to renounce its [words indistinct] over Chad; on the other, it has not made any positive contribution to the meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee.

Egypt

PLO Adviser Briefed on Shultz-Mubarak Talks

NC071905 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. PNC member Sa'id Kamal attended the meeting.

Al-Hasan stated that Dr 'Abd al-Majid briefed him on the outcome of the talks between President Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. He praised President Mubarak for his insistence that the PLO must represent the Palestinians in the international conference and his emphasis on the need to restore their legitimate rights.

Al-Hasan remarked that during his tour of Arab countries, Shultz found a unified Arab stand which stresses the same points. He said the PLO will make an assessment of the various efforts being made in the region in light of the meeting between the U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers in Moscow on 21 April.

Criticizes Shultz Mission

JN071854 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1712 GMT 7 Apr

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Egypt today informed the PLO of the results of Shultz' current tour in the light of President Mubarak's talks with the U.S. secretary of state yesterday.

This came during Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's meeting with Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat. President Mubarak will receive Hani al-Hasan on Saturday within the framework of consultations with the PLO.

Asked by our radio how he views the results of Shultz' mission, Hani al-Hasan said: We believe he is hiding his cards and is maneuvering, pending his important meeting with the Soviet foreign minister in Moscow on 21 April. The real cards will then be put on the table, he added. What is important is what will take place in Moscow between the two superpower foreign ministers. Afterward, the situation will be clarified: It will either move toward peace or toward explosion.

Hani al-Hasan added that it is no coincidence that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will leave for Moscow today at the invitation of the Soviet leadership. He added that the meeting between the PLO and the Soviet friends is taking place in preparation for the Soviets' meeting with Shultz on 21 April. The PLO will specify its stand in the light of 'Arafat's Moscow talks and the outcome of the two superpower talks on 21 April.

Hani al-Hasan appreciated President Mubarak's stand and said that the Arab stand is now approaching unity. He stressed that President Mubarak told Shultz that the PLO should be invited to the international conference and the legitimate national rights of Palestinians should be recognized in a manner that secures their right to self-determination.

Shultz heard the same stand in Jordan and Syria, he said. Therefore, the Soviets now have a unified Arab stand. They will also hear the PLO's stand from 'Arafat so they will have the complete picture before them.

I have learned that King Husayn's questions to Shultz included a question on his interpretation of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights as cited in his initiative, in addition to the Arab countries' insistence on a written Israeli reply to Shultz by Shamir. However, at this point Shultz evaded the question because he does not want to uncover the Israeli cards yet, Hani al-Hasan said.

Mosad Agents Reportedly Arrested, Deported

JN080721 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Apr 88 p 1

[Text] Cairo — Informed sources asserted here yesterday that the Egyptian security organs arrested two agents of the Mosad, the Israeli intelligence service, a few days ago. Both agents came to Cairo disguised as tourists.

The sources also asserted that the two agents' mission in Cairo was to attempt killing some members of the Egypt's Revolution Organization inside the Tura Prison, where the members of the organization, accused of killing members of Israeli and U.S. intelligence services in Egypt, are being detained.

The sources said the Egyptian security organs found in the two agents' possession detailed maps showing the jail's location and the cells housing the organization's members.

The security organs also found in their possession details of the plan these two Zionist agents were intending to carry out to achieve their objective. The sources asserted that the Egyptian authorities did not make a clamor about this issue and were content with deporting the two agents to Tel Aviv.

Saudi Information Minister Begins 5-Day Visit

NC051908 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Apr 88

[Text] Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir arrived in Cairo this evening for a 5-day visit to Egypt during which he will have an audience with President Husni Mubarak. The Saudi information minister is due to hold talks with Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif tomorrow, Wednesday. He will meet with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi on Thursday.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif received the Saudi guest and the delegation accompanying his excellency at Cairo airport.

Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC061157 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Apr (MENA)—Following a meeting today with President Husni Mubarak, Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir said he conveyed to the president special greetings from his brother King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, and his Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister. [passage omitted]

Asked about Israeli allegations that the Saudi missiles have a very high destructive power and that they pose a danger to the region, the Saudi minister said Saudi Arabia has a legitimate right to practice sovereignty in the field of armament and to obtain arms from anywhere in the world.

As for allegations that these missiles bear nuclear warheads, Al-Sha'ir said the Kingdom has a clear-cut and fixed stand on the use of nuclear weapons and that it endeavors to keep the region free of such weapons. He added that Arab countries are free of these weapons now. [passage omitted]

Asked about Saudi Arabia's stand on the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner, Al-Sha'ir asserted that his country denounces and condemns this act. It does not approve of any terrorist act. He pointed out that before leaving Riyadh he learned of efforts to end the incident and contain it. He added that he knows that Iranian officials also denounce what has happened. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Revolution Members Begin Hunger Strike

NC060856 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
4 Apr 88 p 10

[Text] Egypt's Revolution members have begun an indefinite hunger strike to protest their 7 months of solitary confinement as well as methods of psychological pressure used against them by the security services at an annex of Tura Prison.

The security organs are pressuring Egypt's Revolution members in the hope that their trials will proceed without damage to the regime, particularly concerning the interference of the U.S. Embassy in the investigations.

The group's members are being told that they will receive milder sentences if they cooperate. However, the defendants have so far refused to succumb to temptation or intimidation and are beginning their hunger strike.

It is also reported that the security organs are using various means to dissuade defendant Ahmad 'Isam from recanting his evidence in the case. 'Isam wanted to withdraw his affidavit after he discovered that CIA operatives in Cairo had been lying to him when they promised him a U.S. passport and $500,000 in return for his giving full and detailed evidence in the case.

Bomb Said Found at U.S. Cairo Fair Pavilion

NC060721 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
4 Apr 88 p 10

[Text] Egyptian security services have discovered a time bomb at the U.S. pavilion of the Cairo International Fair. AL-SHIRA' has learned that the bomb was discovered shortly before it was to go off. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attempted bombing. The security services ordered a media blackout on the news.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speech at Tunisian Border

LD072057 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, on the occasion of the students' revolution anniversary, at Ra's Jadir on the Tunisian border—live]

[Text] Brothers: We declare from here the abolition of the man-made borders between the one and only Arab people in Tunisia and Libya. The Arab masses in both Tunisia and Libya have to abolish the falsehood created by colonialism 100 years ago on the Arab land.

Brothers, it is not enough to abolish the man-made borders with this tractor, but this should be followed by a mass Libyan-Tunisian Arab action to confirm the effective abolition of the borders in geographical and human terms.

It is high time, brothers, for we Arabs to impose on our land our will and to defeat that of colonialism which lasted for 100 years. It is a shame that the Arab homeland remains divided by the borders created by British, French, and Italian colonization.

We declare today the victory of our will over that of French and Italian colonialism which has divided the one and only Arab people in Tunisia and Libya. [crowd chants slogans]

Brothers, on this great day we call on the Arab masses from the Gulf to the Atlantic and urge them to abolish the borders in spite of the regional rulers who support them. We incite the masses of the Arab nation to abolish the man-made borders which divide the one and only great homeland, and the one and only Arab people. [crowd chants slogans]

We, the Arab masses, we, the Arab citizens, the simple and poor, we do not benefit at all from these man-made borders, or from these gates, or from these chains. We, the Arab masses, we, the Arab citizens, the simple, the poor, the toilers, we declare that we do not benefit at all from the borders, the gates, the chains, and the passports which prevent us from visiting, working, and moving inside the one and only Arab homeland.

Thus we declare from the Libyan Arab side—from Ra's Jadir to Ghudamis—the Tunisian Arab can enter at any time, without a visa, without a passport, without any restrictions or conditions. [crowd chants]

And we declare, from the Libyan side at least, that the Libyan Arab from Ra's Jadir to Ghudamis, may enter the Tunisian Arab territories without a visa, without a passport, without any [word indistinct]. [crowd chants]

Let it be understood, brothers, let it be understood that this measure of removing the borders between us drawn by French and Italian colonialism does not categorically violate national sovereignty, territorial integrity, or respect for the regimes in any part of the Arab homeland, in particular I am talking about the Tunisian and Libyan Arab sides. But we, the sons of the Arab people, are not interested in who rules and to what extent the authority of his regime stretches.

What interests us is that our Arab homeland, from the Atlantic to the Gulf, is our property and we move in it freely, and we do not recognize within it any borders or restrictions, and we should not use passports or visas when we move inside our home, the great one Arab homeland. [crowd chants]

We, the sons of the Arab people, want to work in any place in the Arab homeland; we want to own property in any part of our Arab homeland; and we want to reside in any part of our Arab homeland that we like. After this, we are not interested in who rules and in the extent of his regime. But we, sons of the Arab people, are interested in exercising our rights as citizens and performing our duties as Arab citizens in our Arab homeland.

On the basis of our belief in this, we declare that the Tunisian Arab may exercise these rights and perform these duties in his Arab homeland on the Libyan Arab side. The Tunisian may work, reside, own property, even be a member of a basic people's congress and enjoy the rights and duties of the Libyans. [crowd chants]

At the same time we, on our side, do not prevent the Libyan Arab citizen from entering the Tunisian Arab homeland from any point from Ra's Jadir to Ghudamis without a visa, passport, or restriction.

He will be able to to work in the Tunisian Arab land and will have the right of residence, the right to own property, and to work.

The Libyan side imposes no restrictions on the Libyan Arab citizen in this regard. At the same time we impose no conditions on the Arab citizen from Tunisia in the Libyan Arab territories.

This is the real and specific unionist action that we can carry out in these conditions, and we do not confine ourselves to slogans and chanting. We are now carrying out a historical action. The colonialists told their supporters that the elimination of borders, or negligence of them, destroys a regime.

However, we want to show the falseness of the pretexts of colonialism and the fasification of the colonialists and their interference in our affairs. We know that only the colonialist and his supporters, who want to divide the Arab people as if they were flocks of sheep in order to rule them and leave them as an inheritance to their successors, can benefit from this division.

But, brothers, we would like to point out that the removal of borders constitutes no threat to any neighboring Arab regime in the west, east, or south, or anywhere in the Arab homeland. We would like to stress that the removal of borders constitutes no threat.

On the contrary, it reinforces trust between the two sides and creates joint economic, financial and moral interests for the sons of the one homeland of both sides. This in turn will make all sensitivities, disputes, fears, infiltrations, escape attempts, smuggling, and all the other evils created by the presence of borders, retreat and disappear to be replaced by free movement, joint action, freedom of residence, freedom of ownership, and freedom of movement within this homeland.

As of this evening, all these benefits of the removal of borders will materialize, and as of tomorrow the Tunisian Arab will be able to enter from Ghudamis to Ra's Jadir without a passport or visa, and reside in the Libyan Arab territories and own as much as any Libyan.

And also the Libyan will be able to leave his house in any Libyan city and go without a visa or passport to any place in Tunisia, and he will be able to reside and own property. [applause]

Brothers, in addition to the material economic benefits which will be achieved for the citizens of the two Arab countries, Libya and Tunisia, as a result of removing the borders and as a result of having freedom of movement, residence and ownership, in addition to the material and economic benefits for the citizens of the two countries, by this we will also be defeating the will of French and Italian colonialism, and we will doing what we ought to do in our land.

I say that it is a disgrace that for 100 years we should have continued to act in accordance with a resolution adopted by Europe on our Arab land. These borders were created by Europe on our Arab land. One hundred years of division between the Tunisian Arab and the Libyan Arab.

It is a disgrace that we have been abiding by a French-Italian decision and have been confirming that there are borders. They are false and imaginary borders. Now we confirm that they are false and fictitious.

I mean that in addition to the material and economic benefits which will be achieved, there is something moral and historic. It is the fact that our will has been imposed on our land. Unfortunately, in the past we were subject to the will of the invader, the will of the enemy that wanted only division for us so that he would be able to rule our land and weaken us. However, this was not to be.

But, brothers, this would not have been realized had it not been for the Al-Fatih [Revolution] of September and 7 November. [applause] And from here, brothers, we

salute some of the heroes of 7 November who are with us here. [applause] And we salute the hero of the 7 November, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

We want to say that we have begun to destroy the fetters of the Arab citizen and to demolish the barriers that hinder the movement of the Arab people so that we can march on to Palestine, unify the Arab nation, liberate it, defeat Zionism, and defeat the imperialists against their will. Brothers, let us go forward. And the struggle will continue. [applause].

Al-Qadhdhafi Tears Down Gate at Border

LD071921 [Editorial Report] Tripoli Television in Arabic at 1625 GMT on 7 April begins a live relay from Al-Zawiyah on the border with Tunisia. A procession of cars and a bus accompanied by Arab horsemen is seen progressing through the town. Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is seen in the bus waving to the crowds.

Following a musical interlude at 1649 GMT Al-Qadhdhafi is seen greeting the crowds as an unidentified announcer praises the Libyan leader and calls for Arab unity.

Over shots of the motorcade's progress, the announcer says the aim of the procession is to abolish the borders established by colonialism to separate two peoples who are united by a common history, religion, culture, language, and destiny.

After more shots of the procession and the crowds, at 1745 GMT the announcer says that Al-Qadhdhafi has destroyed the gate symbolizing the borders imposed by colonialism.

At 1750 GMT the Libyan leader is shown talking to officials while chants calling for unity with Tunisia are heard.

At 1800 GMT the station transmits a 15-minute speech by Col al-Qadhdhafi followed by further coverage of scenes along the parade route. The relay ends at 1915 GMT.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Tunisia's Mestiri

LD080220 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Yesterday evening, the brother leader of the revolution received Brother Mahmoud Mestiri, Tunisian minister of foreign affairs, and Habib Ammar, Tunisian minister of interior, in Ra's Jadir. They have come to Ra's Jadir specifically to participate in the great historic event in which the brother leader smashed Ra's Jadir Gate, the symbol of the artificial borders separating the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

The meeting was attended by Major Al-Khuayladi al-Humaydi.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Tunisia

Social Welfare Agreement

LD062040 Tripoli JANA in English 1432 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr [April] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—An agreement of cooperation in the field of social welfare was signed last night in Tripoi between the Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

The agreement was signed by the Libyan secretary of civil service and the Tunisian minister of social affairs, Brother Tawfiq Cheikhrouhou.

Draft Agreement on Cooperation

LD062045 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A draft agreement on cooperation was signed last night between the Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

It was signed by the Libyan secretary of planning and his Tunisian counterpart Mohamed Ghannouchi.

Mineral Resources Accord

LD062051 Tripoli JANA in English 1747 GMT 6 Apr 88

["Amendment to the Joint Communique"—JANA Headline]

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—In accordance with the agreement of the leaders outlined on the 7th of February the joint session committee agreed to set an agreement to implement decisions of the International Court of Justice and to jointly exploit the mineral resources in the Jarf al-Gari region, especially the oil, fish, natural gas resources.

The two sides agreed to form a committee of experts from the two countries headed by the Libyan secretary of civil service and the Tunisian minister of economics to lay out the framework of the cooperation.

Signed for the Jamahiriyah by 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir

Signed for Tunisia by Hedi Baccouche.

Social, Economic Protocol

LD062057 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 6 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Tayr 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A protocol was concluded in Tripoli yesterday of the joint committee of economic and social cooperation between great Al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

The agreement included cooperation in the fields of energy, industry, agriculture, commerce, transport, tourism, planning, construction, vocational training, investment, culture, information, health, exchange of experts, and cooperation between the news agencies of the two countries.

The agreement was signed by the secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee and brother Slaheddine Ben Mbarek the Tunisian Minister of economics.

'Continuous Support' for Palestinians Pledged

LD071811 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, and the delegation of the Supreme Commission of the Occupied Homeland, have concluded a visit to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, during which he held a number of meetings with the Libyan leadership to find means to support the masses of the Palestinian people during their fierce uprising against the authorities of the Zionist occupation.

The Libyan side declared that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah will give $4 million every month for the benefit of consolidating the uprising of our people against occupation. This will be through a number of Palestinian organizations which look after the interests of the detainees, the injured, and those harmed by the brutal Israeli oppression.

This is in addition to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's commitment to give quantities of goods and foodstuffs every month and continuously through UNRWA, and the commitment to do everything possible to support Palestinian students studying in universities abroad, whose connections with their families in the occupied homeland have been severed.

During the concentrated meetings, they also discussed giving all forms of continuous support to our people according to the circumstances and situation of our people's uprising.

They also agreed to twin the universities and cities in the occupied homeland with their counterparts in the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

Brother Abu Jihad expressed the appreciation of the Palestinian leadership and Palestinian people of the stance of the Libyan leadership, headed by brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi who personifies the extent of pan-Arab and revolutionary commitment to the struggle of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland, especially under the current conditions of the revolutionary uprising aimed at resisting the Zionist occupation which commits the most appalling inhuman crimes against our Palestinian people.

Sudan

Libya's Jabir Meets With Government Officials

Meets Ahmad al-Mirghani

LD080910 Tripoli JANA in English 0813 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Tayr [April] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ahmad al-Mirghani president of the head of state's Supreme Council in sisterly Sudan received yesterday morning Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces.

The meeting was attended by Mirghani al-Nasri, Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din and Pacifico Lado Lolik the members of the head of state's Supreme Council, Major Gen. Fadlallah Burma Nasir the minister of state for defence and the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum.

Meets Military Counterparts

LD080909 Tripoli JANA in English 0811 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Khartoum, Al-Tayr [April] 8, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY— Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir the commander-in-chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces met General Fawzi al-Fadil the commander-in-chief of the people's Armed Forces in sisterly Sudan at the Sudanese General Command's headquarters in Khartoum yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by Maj. Gen. Fadlallah Burma Nasir the minister of state for defence, General 'Abd al-'Azim Siddiq the chief of the staff of the Sudanese Armed Forces and the necessary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Khartoum.

Kuwait

Message Praises Iran's Efforts To End Hijacking

LD071311 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1245 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 7 Apr (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, sent a message today to Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi in which he praised Iran's continuous efforts to end the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and to ensure the safety of the hijacked passengers who are still on board the airliner.

KUNA has learned that Shakh Sa'd's message also contained clear confirmation of Kuwait's rejection of the hijackers' demand to leave Mashhad airport. Shaykh Sa'd expressed hope the Iranian officials will continue to make efforts to end the regrettable incident.

Hizballah Threatens Attacks Against 'Interests'

NC072129 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The Hizballah organization today warned Kuwaiti officials against taking any measure against the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner which is now standing in Mashhad airport, western Iran, with 55 hostages on board.

In a written message, the organization threatened it will attack Kuwaiti interests in various parts of the world if any measures are taken against the hijackers, who are demanding the release of 17 extremist Shi'ites being held in Kuwaiti prisons for terrorist acts there.

PDRY

YAR Oil Minister Makes Statement, Departs

EA080416 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The delegation from the northern part of the homeland, led by Brother Ahmad 'Ali Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and member of the permanent committee, left Aden this morning after participating in the meeting of the first 1988 session of the board of directors of the joint Yemeni natural resources project.

In a statement to ADEN NEWS AGENCY, Brother Muhani affirmed that the signing of decisions by the board of directors of the joint Yemeni natural resources project is regarded as an important and decisive step in determining this important project's outcome.

He added: We are now on the way to completing studies on the first phase, which will provide for the two parts of Yemen useful scientific information on the basis of which planning and programming will take place to exploit natural resources, particularly with regard to minerals and the completion of a network for monitoring coastal and underground water, needed by the two parts in important areas of the joint project. This is one of the projects being carried out as part of cooperation in the interests of the two parts.

Brother Muhani pointed out in his statement that the project includes a program for developing technical cadres, namely, geologists and engineers, in the two parts and a bank for gathering [word indistinct] and analyzing information.

He said the meeting had been successful. He emphasized that efforts would be stepped up to achieve the goals of the project, which is regarded as one of the most fundamental steps toward Yemeni reunification. He pointed out that there are opportunities for other projects between the two ministries in the two parts. [passage omitted].

Qatar

Hijacking of Kuwaiti Airliner Condemned

JN071338 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1310 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Doha, 7 Apr (WAKH)—The State of Qatar has expressed its strong condemnation of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner and denounced this terrorist criminal act.

In a statement to QNA, a responsible source said the State of Qatar, while following with deep concern the news of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner and the passengers' tribulation, condemns this inhuman act, all air piracy operations, and all forms of terrorism which aim at blackmailing and endangering the lives of innocent people.

The Qatari source said Qatar calls for exerting all efforts to safeguard the safety of all the passengers. He expressed hope that efforts being exerted in Iran will continue in order to end the operation peacefully.

Saudi Arabia

Shultz Meets With King Fahd, Departs

LD071911 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpt] King Fadh ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, received this afternoon in his office at Al-Wadi Palace in Buraydah in the area of Al-Qasim U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the United States of America: His Excellency Muhammad Ibrahim

Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the Council of Ministers, and acting information minister; and U.S. charge d'affaires (Edward Baker).

The U.S. secretary of state arrived at Al-Qasim Airport earlier this afternoon. He was welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; His Royal Highness Prince Bandar ibn Sultan 'Abd al-'Aziz, ambassador of the custodian of the two holy mosques to the United States; the U.S. charge d'affaires to the Kingdom; and a number of officials.

His Excellency U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Al-Qasim this evening. [passage omitted]

Missile Blamed for 'Very Large' Fire at Port

LD080853 Tehran IRNA in English 2105 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] London, April 7, IRNA—News has just emerged that firefighters at the Saudi Arabian port of Al-Jubayl have succeeded in extinguishing a major ethylene fire that has been raging out of control for almost a week.

The Saudi regime has always been particularly sensitive about reports of incidents leaking out the country and LLOYD'S LIST reported Thursday that the authorities immediately sealed off the area and refused to give any information about the fire or its cause.

The fire, it found out one week starting, was seated in an ethylene storage tank and was described as "very large." Both the U.S. oil fire specialists, Boots and Coots and Red Adair, it said, had been called in to treat what was said to be a "leak."

A three-kilometre wall of flames erupted from a broken pipeline in the nearby Ra's al-Saffaniyah offshore oilfields last October, where there was also a news blockout and it is not known if either incident had been sabotage.

LLOYD'S SHIPPING GAZETTE said that the latest incident has been blamed by sources at Al-Jubayl as being caused by a missile but was unclear on where a missile may have come from.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Iranian Aircraft Raid Irbil

JN070635 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0559 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Apr (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has said two Iranian planes raided the city of Irbil, northern Iraq, at 0715 [0315 GMT] today with residential areas as their target.

In a statement today, the spokesman added that the enemy raid martyred and wounded a number of civilians, including women and children, and damaged a number of houses and other civilian property.

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN071120 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1105 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1401 [1001 GMT] today, the Iranian rulers launched one of their missiles at the city of Baghdad. The missile landed in a residential area, martyring and wounding a number of civilians, including women, the elderly, and children.

The missile also demolished and damaged a number of houses, shops, and other civilian property. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 7 April 1988

Communique No 3,121

JN071514 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,121 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the determination of the zealous brave men, our heroic Air Force has continued to penetrate deep inside enemy territory in all places and at all times to pound the dens of evil, to retaliate against the Khomeyniite aggression, and to punish them for their crimes against our people.

Today, our Air Force flew the following heroic missions:

1. At 0915 [0519 GMT] today, our planes launched a raid on the city of Dezful.

2. At 1100 today, our planes launched a raid on the city of Pol-e Dokhtar.

3. At 1100 today, a number of our planes launched a raid on the city of Kuhdasht.

4. At 1100 today, a number of our planes raided the city of Masjed-e Soleyman.

5. At 1100 today, a number of our planes launched a raid on the city of Shushtar.

6. At 1247 today, a number of our plans launched a raid on the city of Hamadan.

7. At 1345 today, our planes launched a raid on the city of Hendijan.

8. At 1400 today, a number of our planes launched a raid on the city of Ilam.

9. At the same time, a number of our planes launched a raid on the city of Sar-e Zahab.

10. At 1540 today, a number of our planes raided the city of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

11. At 1607 today, a number of our planes launched a second raid on the city of Dezful.

12. The desperate Iranian regime sent one of its planes at 0630 today in an attempt to approach the Governorate of Baghdad. It was confronted by a quick and intensive reaction from our air defenses, forcing it to flee before entering the administrative border of our capital. Our Air Force planes were lying in wait and chased it inside enemy territory. They downed it in the Sabzak area.

After carrying out these missions, all our planes returned safely to base, in God's care. Praise be to our Air Force men—commanders, eagles, officers, and other ranks. Victory is the lot of great Iraq.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 April 1988

Communique No 3,122

JN071541 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1450 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,122 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In reply to the Iranian regime's attacks on our borders and its shelling of our cities, in retaliation for our innocent martyrs, and so the Iranian regime will bear the consequences of its sinister deeds and pay a heavy price for them, the following missile strikes were directed to enemy cities today, with the help of God:

1. At 0929 [0529 GMT] today, the 67th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Tehran.

2. At 1022 today, the 68th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Karaj.

3. At 1246 today, the Al-Husayn missile force carried out its 69th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles on the city of Tehran.

4. At 1314 today, the 70th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Qom.

5. At 1327 today, the Al-Husayn missile force carried out the 71st blow with the Al-Husayn missiles on the city of Esfahan.

6. At 1401 today, the 72d strike was dealt with the Al-Husayn missiles to the city of Tabriz, to the far north of Iran.

7. At 1545 today, the 73d blow with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Esfahan.

8. At 1630 today, the Al-Husayn missile force carried out the 74th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles on the city of Karaj.

9. At 1810 today, the Al-Husayn missile force dealt the 75th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles on the city of Tehran. This is the third missile strike dealt to the capital of charlatans today.

May God praise the lofty men of the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force. Let us deal more painful blows to the enemy. God is on our side.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 April 1988

Missile Strike Against Esfahan

JN071601 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1547 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman on 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Subsequent to the Armed Forces General Command's Communique No 3,122 issued this evening, with God's help and with the determination of our zealous men of the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force, the 76th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt to the city of Esfahan at 1923 [1523 GMT] today.

This is the 10th missile strike dealt to enemy cities in the remote north to the far south today. May God grant us success on the path of final victory, Praise be to God.

[Dated] 7 April 1988

Communique No 3,123

JN071721 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Communique No 3,123 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Following is our units' activities for last night and today:

1. Our Air Force today flew 120 combat missions deep inside enemy territory to strike at enemy targets and positions in the areas of operations. All our planes then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our helicopter gunships today carried out 76 combat sorties to inflict more losses on the enemy. They then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, the enemy sustained the following losses: One tank was destroyed; four scoundrels were killed; two 106-mm guns were destroyed; five vehicles, two of which were loaded with personnel, were set on fire; two shovels were destroyed; two ammunition dumps were blown up; and one machinegun emplacement was destroyed.

Our heavy artillery in the same sector achieved the following:

Killing a number of enemy personnel; destroying one heavy gun and one 120-mm mortar; burning one large vehicle; attacking and halting enemy engineering efforts; and destroying one large position and killing its occupants.

4. In the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces—four enemy personnel were killed, five ammunition dumps were blown up, and four positions and one observation post were destroyed.

In the II Army Corps central sector, four enemy soldiers were killed and one 120-mm mortar, one tubular launcher, four infantry positions, and one observation post were destroyed.

5. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one enemy scoundrel was killed and in the V Army Corps northern sector five others were killed.

6. Our units in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris destroyed five infantry positions and three rafts and blew up one ammunition dump. In the VII Army Corps sector, three enemy personnel were killed and six infantry positions were destroyed.

7. At 1401 [1001 GMT] today, the criminal Iranian regime launched one of its missiles at the city of Baghdad. The missile landed in a residential area. As a result,

a number of civilians, including women, children, and old men, were martyred and wounded and a number of houses and civilian properties were demolished and damaged.

The criminal enemy also shelled the cities of Basra, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Khanaqin, and Al-Dayr with long-range artillery. As a result, a number of civilians, including women and children, were martyred and wounded, and a number of houses and shops were demolished and damaged. May God's paradise be the final abode of our martyrs and may swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 7 April 1988

4th Missile Launched at Tehran

JN071815 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1758 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 2125 [1725 GMT] today, the Al-Husayn missile force launched the 77th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles at the city of Tehran. This is the fourth missile strike dealt to the capital of charlatanism, jugglery, and advocates of sedition and the 11th missile strike dealt to Iranian cities.

May God greet those brave, enlightened, and strong men who know how to teach the enemies lessons in good behavior—men of the military industries and the heroic Al-Husayn missile force. We will always thank God, who made us triumph over our enemy and grants us victory.

[Dated] 7 April 1988

Gas Victims To Get Treatment

JN071902 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna, 7 Apr (INA)—The Iraqi Embassy here has announced that a number of the Iraqi Armed Forces' victims of the chemical weapons used by Iran against the city of Halabjah, northern Iraq, will arrive in a number of European countries, including Austria, for treatment.

A press statement issued by the embassy today said that a UN delegation will arrive in Baghdad today to examine the victims of the chemical weapons at the request of the Iraqi Government. The statement added that the Iranian regime forces used chemical weapons against Iraqi forces and civilians on 20 and 31 March.

Missile Strike Update

JN080546 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0525 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Statement by a militry spokesman dated 8 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Continuing to reply to the criminal Iranian regime's aggression against our borders and cities and to avenge our righteous martyrs, the following missile strikes have been carried out with God's support:

1. At 0325 [2325 GMT on 7 April] today, the heroic Al-Husayn missile force dealt the 78th missile strike against Tabriz with Al-Husayn missiles.

2. At 0345 today, the 79th missile strike was carried out against Tehran with Al-Husayn missiles.

3. At 0418 today, the Al-Husayn missile force carried out its 80th strike against the city of Esfahan with Al-Husayn missiles.

4. At 0615 today, the Al Husayn missile force carried out the 81st missile strike against Qom with Al-Husayn missiles.

O members of the military industries and the Al-Husayn missile force; O select group of men, with your efforts and struggle and with what your intellect has produced and what your strong arms have performed, you have translated our great people's will of replying to the odious Khomeyniite clique, which insists on evil. We thank God, Who has granted us victory over our enemy. He is the best supporter.

[Dated] 8 April 1988

Air Force Strikes Noted

JN080620 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0553 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 8 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our Air Force has carried out the following missions deep inside enemy territory and over the Arabian Gulf waters:

1. At 2148 [1748 GMT] yesterday, our aircraft carried out a raid against Hamadan.

2. At 2200 yesterday, our aircraft raided Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

3. Our Air Force carried out an accurate and effective hit against a very large maritime target off the Iranian coast yesterday evening.

After carrying out these missions, our aircraft safely returned to base, thanks be to God.

[Dated] 8 April 1988

Iran Shells 11 Cities

JN080752 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—Using long-range artillery, the Iranian regime shelled residential areas in 11 Iraqi cities in southern and northern Iraq all through last night. This was stated by a military spokesman who added that the shelling was targeted against residential areas in Basra, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Al-'Amarah, Al-Qurnah, Qal'at Dizah, Al-Zubayr, Al-Majjar al-Kabir, Al-Musharrah, Al-Kaha', Khanaqin, and Al-Dayr.

As a result of the enemy shelling, several civilian citizens were either killed or wounded and many houses and civilian properties were either damaged or destroyed.

Iran Fires Missile on Baghdad

JN080811 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0802 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 8 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1045 [0645 GMT] today, the despotic Iranian rulers fired a missile on the city of Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area, martyring or wounding several civilians, including women and children, and damaging or demolishing several houses, shops, and other civilian properties.

We ask God to have mercy on our martyrs and we wish our wounded swift recovery.

[Dated] 8 April 1988

Iranian Plane Hits Al-'Amadiyah

JN080930 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Apr (INA)—An Iranian enemy aircraft raided Al-'Amadiyah in northern Iraq at 0926 [0526 GMT] today, having one of the residential complexes as its target.

An Iraqi Armed Forces General Command military spokesman said as a result of this raid, several civilian citizens were either martyred or wounded, including women and children, and several houses, shops, and cars were damaged.

Iranian Missile Strikes Mosul

JN081243 Baghdad INA in English 1229 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Baghdad, April 8, INA—A missile fired by the criminal Iranian regime landed at a residential area in the Iraqi city of Mosul at 14:55 hours [10:55 GMT] today.

An Iraqi military spokesman said the missile caused the martyrdom and wounding of a number of civilians including women and children and the demolishing and damaging of a number of houses, shops, and private cars.

Shamir Reportedly 'To Bury' Shultz Plan
TA071446 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
7 Apr 88 p B1

[Commentary by Yo'el Marcus: "Six Feet Under"]

[Text] Yitzhaq Shamir has won again. If his purpose was to bury Shultz' plan 6 feet under, then he has done it again. He will now be able to go on talking about his "pride" and his "resistance" in the face of pressure to make concessions. This time he can be doubly proud. They tried to go over his head and appeal to Israeli public opinion, and they failed. Not only did Shamir not break, but he will even be able to say that he got away unscathed and that U.S.-Israeli friendship strengthened. You can ask Shultz. Does he argue otherwise?

To wit, the gift Shultz gave him as early as in their first meeting: the formalization of a memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation which will be signed in simultaneous ceremonies by Reagan in Washington and Shamir (Shamir, not Herzog, as Israeli television had reported) in Jerusalem on Israel's 40th Independence Day. See? One may say no to America and still get a bonus!

Several factors linked up to allow Shamir to attain what he perceived as an achievement in the third round of Shultz' initiative. The most important factor was the weakness of the three main protagonists. Let us begin with Shamir, who is struck by two weaknesses: a) He could not pass a resolution in the Likud in favor of entering negotiations under the sponsorship of an international conference. Consequently, and contrary to what Shultz believed, Shamir could not in any way comply with Shultz' initiative even if he had been overcome by an attack of flexibility. b) Even if he had wanted to officially and bluntly sabotage the initiative by means of a draw, he could not have passed a resolution in the Cabinet rejecting the plan.

These objective difficulties actually played into Shamir's hands. On the one hand, they forced him to play a sophisticated political game—not to say "no" and not to say "yes"—which the administration apparently favors over an absolute rejection. On the other hand, his weaknesses allowed him to concentrate on the issue of the international conference and its being a "death trap" set by the Russians; an argument which pleases broad circles both here and in the United States. Of course, the argument about a death trap is absolute nonsense. After all, the only one that can really pressure us to make concessions is the United States. He who agrees to the full participation of the United States in direct negotiations without a conference actually risks pressures far heavier than those both the Soviet Union and the PRC can exert on us. After all, the Russians had no part in our total withdrawal from the Sinai and the concessions made after the Yom Kippur War; all the pressure came from the Americans.

Weakness was also displayed by King Husayn, who in his own way played the silent partner to Shamir's intransigent position. Not only would the initiative have been given a serious boost had the king unqualifiedly embraced the plan, and Shultz tried to squeeze that much from him yesterday, but Israel would have been put in a tough position vis-a-vis U.S. public opinion. However, at least until yesterday, the king could not bring himself to do that. He wants more clarifications, more explanations—once again, neither "yes" nor "no." He thus helped Shamir keep the plan buried 6 feet under.

Shultz, henceforth to be called "the determined one," did not come across as a real macho man either. Both because he is a nice man and because the United States also has elections on its mind, in his address to Israeli public opinion Shultz abstained from imparting the bitter truth that the rejection of peace is leading Israel toward a dual disaster: to war and to the loss of America. Instead, he talked about the great friendship, about the fact that the United States will not threaten Israel and will not exert pressures on it which would harm its security, and all the other blah-blah. His basic weakness was exposed when he failed to insist on the first target of his deadline-filled plan, that is, the demand to get an answer to his initiative by 15 March. When this date passed and no answers were forthcoming, he proved that even if people did not give a damn about him he could still survive. Shamir alone cannot be blamed for this because Husayn did not give an answer either.

Shultz committed two additional errors during this round of talks which made things easier for Shamir and more difficult for Husayn and for the participation of Palestinians in the process. The first was his declaration that the United States agrees with three no's: no to a Palestinian state, no to a return to the 1967 borders, and no to negotiations with the PLO. Never mind that these no's are the basis for the notion of a dialogue between Jordan and Israel. Still, it is one thing to have a tacit agreement about these points, and another thing altogether to declare them to be a personal position. And, what is more, to do that on the eve of his trip to Amman! It was as if he were sabotaging his mission himself.

His second mistake was to turn the talks with Shamir from a discussion about the conference to a debate on "substance." This was apparently done for tactical reasons. Not only did the debate on substance further expose Shamir's internal difficulties, but it deviated from the spirit of the entire initiative. After all, the whole "trick" of the plan was to look for the lowest common denominator so as to enable the beginning of talks. The moment he started talking about "substance" he began a debate which may go on for years. As things stand today, Shultz has three options:

—Issue invitations, in coordination with the Soviet Union, based the fact that neither side has said no.

—At some stage, squeeze an official and dramatic "yes" out of Jordan and then proceed to exert pressure on Israel.

—Go on blabbering about substance which is tantamount to marking time, and keep this dead weight alive for the next administration.

Presumably, the last option is the most feasible. In other words, although it has already been buried, Shultz' initiative will not be issued a death certificate. The question is how much and to what extent, if at all, the public will hold Shamir responsible for thwarting the attempts at a dialogue and for the perpetration of a disastrous stalemate. In his own eyes and in those of his party Shamir may be a victorious hero, but from the national point of view one could say: Well, some victory....

Arabic Press Editorials Discuss Shultz Visit

Shultz Brought 'Nothing New'

TA051746 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
4 Apr 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Reading of Shultz' Statements"]

[Text] A careful reading of the overall statements made by the U.S. secretary of state yesterday, beginning with his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport, continuing with his meeting with Israeli newsmen, and ending with the interview broadcast by Israeli television—an interview which contained allusions, hints, and details relating to his peace initiative—leaves one with the initial conclusion that the U.S. secretary has brought nothing new. By this we mean that he is ignoring the fact that the Arab parties have agreed to deal with the principle and strategy of achieving peace in the Middle East through an international conference attended by all the parties concerned, including the Security Council's permanent member states.

The second conclusion about Shultz' statements is that at a time when he admits that every party to whom the U.S. initiative was proposed found something wrong in it, he does not explain Israel's objections despite the fact that Shultz, more than anyone, knows that the Israeli objection covers most parts of his initiative. Since Shultz admitted that there are objections to his initiative, he refrained from dwelling on the important issue, namely how can the United States use its status and position to force Israel to accept the peace proposals that he is carrying?

The thing that is absent from George Shultz' statements is any consideration of the Soviet role in advancing the peace process. The U.S. secretary of state is well aware of the effectiveness of this role. Once again the U.S. secretary is making the mistake that disqualifies him as a mediator. It is the mistake of deciding who should be at the negotiating table. Shultz speaks as if he were Yitzhaq Shamir. This is rejected by the Palestinians.

All signs indicate that there are positive elements in the U.S. secretary's initiative that require a Palestinian position which will push Israeli policy into a corner. On the other hand, the same signs indicate that this initiative will turn into yet another plan that will be added to the list of plans and initiatives that appear once in history but fail to reappear. We would have liked to wish the U.S. secretary success in establishing a just peace in this region. We are certain, however, that peace will not be achieved by wishes, but rather by transforming plans and proposals into an approach that places the issues under conflict in their right perspective and calls positions and policies by their right names.

AL-FAJR on 3 Noes

TA051945 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
5 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The First and the Final Question"]

[Text] No to an independent Palestinian state; no to negotiations with the PLO; and no to a return to the 1967 borders. These 3 noes were put forward by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres several days ago, summing up the Israeli viewpoint regarding the current moves in the Middle East region within the context of the so-called new U.S. "peace initiative." Upon his arrival in Israel 2 days ago, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz affirmed the conformity of his own viewpoint, which naturally is the U.S. viewpoint, with this Israeli viewpoint based on the above-mentioned 3 noes.

There is no doubt, therefore, that Shultz, by means of his unfortunate "initiative," is moving in one way or another along the same wrong Israeli path. This path is apt to lead matters to a dead end and to further failures of the efforts exerted to achieve a just settlement of the region's crisis that would be particularly acceptable to the Palestinian side, which is the side that is involved. When Shultz "affirms" that his "initiative" meets the Israeli no's, he reinforces the U.S. position that is hostile to the Palestinians and their cause. He indicates more clearly than ever that the U.S. efforts are no more than throwing dust in the eyes and are a mere waste of time as far as the United States itself is concerned, represented by the current U.S. Administration.

How can Shultz dream that his stillborn initiative will be resurrected when he flagrantly ignores, to a comical degree, the presumed PLO role in any negotiations regarding the region's crisis? This question suffices, because it is not only an abridgement of many questions but is the first and the final question.

Palestinian Problem at Root

TA061924 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 6 Apr 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Roots and Branches"]

[Text] During his visit to Jordan and Syria, it became apparent to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that the Arab countries concerned are trying to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. A peace that guarantees the rights of all the region's peoples, including the national legitimate rights of the Palestinian people—the same rights which are completely ignored by the Shultz plan. Naturally, the rules of secret diplomacy pursued in the Middle East region prevent the emergence of details of Shultz' talks with leaders of the countries concerned, but the U.S. secretary of state has not concealed his inclinations toward the Palestinian people. His proposals address the Palestinian people as merely a community or minority whose problems can be resolved within a religious and civilian context.

We believe that Shultz shares this viewpoint equally with the Labor Party and the Likud. Peres and Shamir are harmonious in rejecting all ideas and proposals that address the Palestinian problem from the standpoint of national and political rights.

A few days ago in an interview with the Italian newspaper LA REPUBBLICA, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin answered a question about the Palestinian people's right to self-determination by saying: There are many minorities in Europe, and all the European countries refuse to grant them the right to self-determination. Undoubtedly this answer clearly reveals the view of Israeli decisionmakers and statesmen regarding the Palestinian people. The belief prevails in the decisionmaking corridors of Israel and the United States that the Palestinian problem can be resolved outside the framework of the right of nations to determine their future. The proposals on autonomy and on improving the Palestinians' living conditions are made within the context of refusing to deal with the Palestinians as people who have rights, as well as political and national obligations, just as other peoples on earth.

The history of political initiatives related to the Arab-Israeli conflict is filled with proposals that strived to address the Palestinian problem from the aspect of the rights of communities and minorities. It is no secret to anyone that the fate of all these proposals has been to fade into history. Despite all that has been said about Shultz' proposals and the reservations over them by the countries concerned, these proposals lack a realistic perspective on dealing with the Palestinian problem which constitutes the basic root of the Arab-Israeli conflict. What is the logic of dealing with the branches at the expense of the root which feeds the branches and allows them to grow and expand?

The branches are no more than a natural outgrowth of the root. Resolving marginal or secondary problems separately from fundamental problems signifies the impossibility of working out any kind of solution because denying the facts does not negate their existence.

Newspaper Polls Note Leaders' Popularity

DAVAR Poll

TA071401 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 7 Apr 88 pp 1,2

[Report by Hanokh and Rafi Smith]

[Text] The popularity of most Cabinet members has dropped. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is the only one whose popularity has increased in the last 3 months, while that of Finance Minister Nisim has remained stable and in the lead. These are some of the findings of a public opinion poll conducted for DAVAR by the Smith Institute, among 1,200 men and women who are a representative sample of the adult Jewish population. The poll was conducted between 20 and 28 March.

The question polled was: "In your opinion, how did the following figures perform their duties?" (The table specifies the percentage of those who answered "very good" and "good.")

BOT

Jan 87 Sep 87 Dec 87 Mar 88 Yitzhaq Shamir 47 43 46 44 Shim'on Peres 67 56 54 46 Yitzhaq Rabin 74 64 58 60 David Levi 49 35 38 34 Ari'el Sharon 35 35 38 38 Moshe Nisim 36 62 66 66 Yitzhaq Navon — 54 48 47

EOT

The evaluation of Yitzhaq Shamir's performance shows a slight drop in comparison to the December 1987 poll, while Shim'on Peres' registered an 8-percent drop. Despite the shift toward the right in public opinion, Peres is still more popular than Shamir, but the gap has narrowed. Yitzhaq Rabin registered a 2-percent increase compared to the December poll. Minister Nisim remained stable as the most popular minister, with two-thirds expressing their satisfaction with the way he functions as finance minister. There has been no change in the evaluation of Yitzhaq Navon's and Ari'el Sharon's performance compared to December 1987. David Levi received a positive evaluation of less then one third of the public.

In order to obtain another perspective we posed an additional question: "Here is a list of all current prominent figures in the two major parties. Which, would you say, would run the country better?"

Alignment: Peres, Rabin, Navon, Qeysar—37 percent

Likud: Shamir, Levi, Sharon, Nisim—33 percent

Both equally—6 percent

None of them—15 percent

No opinion—9 percent

A 4-percent difference in favor of the Alignment over the Likud was registered. It is worth noting, however, the high percentage of those who were not willing to favor any group.

MA'ARIV Poll

TA071404 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 7 Apr p A6

[Text] Peres' popularity as the man best suited for the post of prime minister continues to drop while Shamir's has risen significantly. The popularity of Sharon and Rabin has risen slightly. The uncertainty about the situation in the territories, which affected evaluations in January, does not exist any more. Only 13 percent say they have no candidate suitable for the post of prime minister. These are the findings of a poll conducted by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute directed by Dr Mikha Hopp.

The poll was conducted during the second half of March, some 3 months after the beginning of the uprising in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The following questions were posed to the participants: In your opinion who is best suited to serve as prime minister, defense minister, finance minister, and foreign minister? (All figures are quoted in percentage points.)

The man best suited to be prime minister [subhead]

BOT

Mar 88 Jan 88 Nov 87 Peres 35.4 37.7 42.7 Shamir 27.3 17.0 18.0 Sharon 6.8 6.2 4.7 Rabin 5.0 4.3 3.1 Others 12.2 12.0 15.9 No candidate 13.3 22.8 15.6 Total 100.0 100.0 100.0

EOT

The man best suited to be defense minister [subhead]

BOT

Mar 88 Jan 88 Nov 87 Rabin 42.5 45.6 49.2 Sharon 25.5 20.2 16.4 Arens 5.0 4.2 6.9 Eytan 6.7 3.8 1.7 Others 10.1 8.2 8.6 No candidate 10.2 18.0 17.2 Total 100.0 100.0 100.0

EOT

It seems that Rabin's heavy-handed policy in the territories continues to damage his popularity, presumably among Alignment supporters. Sharon's and Refa'el Eytan's popularity continues to improve. Rightwing supporters would prefer having Sharon as defense minister, according to this poll.

The man best suited to be finance minister [subhead]

BOT

Mar 88 Jan 88 Nov 87 Nisim 57.0 44.9 45.1 Moda'i 13.1 13.1 12.7 Hurvitz 2.9 3.5 4.6 Ya'aqobi 5.3 3.8 3.0 Others 8.1 5.9 8.4 No candidate 13.6 28.8 26.2 Total 100.0 100.0 100.0

EOT

Abba Eban is the favorite as foreign minister: 28.4 percent preferred him over Shamir with 9 percent, and Peres with 15 percent.

Shomron Receives Initial Report on Bayta Incident

TA071834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] This afternoon, Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron was given a copy of the debriefing conducted by the Central Command on yesterday's incident in the village of Bayta. The report clearly indicates that the local inhabitants had no intention of harming the children. If that had been their design, they could have killed a large number of children. Furthermore, many villagers assisted in extricating the children. The authors of the report further state that the tour was held without prior coordination with the IDF and that the escort, Romem Aldubi, had only one magazine.

Regarding the circumstances of the incident, it was reported that the youths entered the village of Awsarin to have breakfast and then proceeded to a destination not far from Bayta. Local youths began pelting them with rocks. The escort, Aldubi, wanted to shoot back, but the other escort asked him to hold his fire. Aldubi then asked the boys to gather round him so that his personal weapon would not be snatched from him. After that was done, he opened fire. Later, several local residents assaulted him, seized his weapon, and led the group of boys to the village as a cover. They thus wanted to save the boys. Tirtza Porat was killed by a stone thrown at her by the mother of one of the slain Arabs.

Meanwhile, our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an Arab youth was shot dead in Bayta this afternoon while fleeing IDF soldiers. The soldiers found him the course of searches round the village and demanded that he halt. He ignored the instruction, the soldiers shot at his feet, and when he failed to stop even after that, they shot at him.

Early this morning, the security forces blew up another house in the village. This is the fifth structure that was demolished today. This came in the wake of the conclusion that the owners of the house played an active role in physically attacking the youths on the tour. The curfew on the village remains in effect and large forces are searching the nearby wadis and hills. Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, spent the whole day in the village and personally supervised the searches.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1800 GMT on 7 April carries a similar report, adding: "The debriefing the IDF carried out on the bloody incident at Bayta indicates that the late Tirtza Porat was hit in the head by a bullet fired by one of the weapons possessed by the escorts. A senior military source has told our correspondent Elisha' Spiegelman that the chances of determining whether the girl was hit by the bullets fired by the escorts or by bullets fired by a local resident are very slim. The source emphasized that all the investigations carried out by the IDF indicated that the village saw no further shooting from an additional weapon and that apparently when the local residents seized the escorts' personal arms, their magazines had been empty."]

IDF Kills Bayta Youth 7 Apr

TA071711 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] An Arab youth from the village of Bayta in Samaria was shot dead this afternoon while fleeing IDF soldiers. Our correspondent Arye Gus was told that in the course of searches around the village, an IDF unit found the youth and instructed him to halt. He continued to run, so the soldiers shot at his feet. He still continued to run, and the soldiers shot at him. He was wounded and later died.

During the searches in Bayta, many youths wanted by the security forces were detained. The searches have been expanded, and they now include the village surrounding because many locals took advantage of the darkness to escape. This morning, the security forces demolished four houses in Bayta that belonged to residents directly involved in the attack on the Elon More children's tour yesterday.

Several Elon More residents entered the village of Dayr al-Hatab near Elon More this evening, fired several shots, and tried to set a house on fire. An IDF unit sent them away. Military sources have told our correspondent Arye Gus that the names of the people who participated in this act are known to the Army and that measures will be taken against them after the holiday.

Editorials View 6 Apr Incident

TA071340 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 7 Apr 88

[From the review of morning press editorials]

[Text] 'AL HAMISHMAR says that the vile murder and the savage assault upon Jewish youngsters by the group of Bayta villagers deepens the hostility and hatred between the two peoples even further. At a time when the public in Israel recoils from the horror of the Israeli girl's murder, we should not allow feelings of vengeance to be released, for this would only serve to widen the circle of hatred, bloodshed, and death.

HATZOFE writes that the most appropriate reaction to the murder of a girl still in the spring of her days, perpetrated during the Passover holiday of spring, would be to reinforce Jewish settlement in Eretz Yisra'el and to expel the rioters. The death penalty should be imposed on the murderers, this being the only efficient way to restore security and quiet in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el. At the same time, each step should be carefully considered, so as to find the appropriate time and place for the painful warning measures.

HA'ARETZ says that the Arabs who assailed the group of Jewish hikers are worthy of condemnation and punishment. The Military Government will certainly not spare the rod toward the Arab village. The newspaper adds that armed escorts were, in any event, incapable of guaranteeing the hikers' safety. A distinction should be made between the justified and desirable end of touring the country, and political protest. Elon More and the rest of the settlement community will do well by abstaining from their customary complaints against the IDF for supposedly not doing enough for their security. If some of them are tempted to take actions of revenge, the IDF must restrain them and do everything possible to prevent the fire from spreading even more.

'Fatah Terrorists' Captured in Samaria

TA071141 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Report by 'Ofer Bardugo—live]

[Text] The security forces have recently uncovered a squad of Fatah terrorists in Samaria. Its members are suspected of having perpetrated several acts of terrorism, including the planting of a booby-trapped explosive in Kefar Sava's central bus station on 3 March this year. The squad was headed by an resident of the village of Al-Fandaqumiyah in the Janin District. The squad, acting on behalf of Force 17, perpetrated several other acts, such as detonating a makeshift bomb in Kefar Sava in May 1987, detonating a similar bomb in a public park in November 1987 in Kefar Sava, and planting a makeshift bomb in Charles Clore Park in Tel Aviv which was safely defused.

Soldier Jailed for Desertion, Contacting Fatah

TA050605 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 88 P 1

[Report by the defense correspondent]

[Text] An IDF soldier has been jailed for three-and-a-half years for desertion and giving assistance to the enemy, it was learned last night. The soldier was also

given a year-and-a-half suspended sentence. The soldier, who was found guilty in a military district court, illegally left Israel last summer for Europe, where he contacted representatives of Fatah.

The court found that the soldier did not disclose information that was damaging to Israel's security; however, the very fact that he had contacted a terrorist organization justified harsh punishment. The soldier appealed the sentence to a military appeals court, but his appeal was turned down. No information was available last night on the soldier's identity.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Relay of Arabic Prayers Halted

TA071349 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Apr 88 p A7

[Report by 'Atallah Mansur]

[Text] The Voice of Israel's Arabic-language program has recently terminated its live broadcasts from churches and mosques for fear that live relays from houses of prayer in East Jerusalem and the territories might be disrupted. For the past 20 years the Voice of Israel's Network "D" has carried live relays of prayers from one of the mosques every Friday. Broadcast of these services has stopped since 25 March. Edmond Sehayek, the director of Arabic-language programs, yesterday refused to answer questions from the HA'ARETZ correspondent and referred him to one of his aides, who did not answer the phone.

2 Gaza Youths Wounded

TA071612 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] A 20-year old youth from the Al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was shot in the chest by soldiers in the course of the dispersal of a riot. He was evacuated to the Sheba Medical Center at Tel Hashomer in serious condition. A Qabatiyah youth who was wounded in the pelvis was brought to the Nabulus Hospital. Our correspondent Arye Gus was told that the IDF was checking the circumstances of the shooting.

Settlers Present Demands

TA071842 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Several Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza council heads this evening launched a sit-down strike opposite the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem. They plan to continue the strike until, to use the settlers phrasing, the government changes its policy in the territories. Our correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonov reports that the strikers presented several demands to the prime minister. These included the demand that another 26 settlements be set up in the territories, that the IDF change its method of reaction in order to restore what they called its deterrent power, and that agitators be expelled, murderers be executed, East Jerusalem Arabic-language newspapers be closed, and contacts with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz be terminated.

Galilee Water Pipeline Cut

TA071901 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Stones were thrown this afternoon at a car traveling near Moshav Sharona in the Lower Galilee. No one was hurt, but the windshield of the car was smashed. Border policemen searched the area. Our reporter in the north says that in another incident a pipeline carrying water to the Netofa settlement in the same region was cut.

Cars, Bus Stoned

TA072111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Three private vehicles and a bus were pelted with rocks near the village of Jisr al-Zarqa on the Haifa-Tel Aviv highway this evening. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that reinforced police units are searching the area. There were stoning incidents 3 days ago too, and about a week ago two Molotov cocktails were hurled at vehicles.

Temple Mount Prayers Quiet

TA081114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The Friday prayers on the Temple Mount have ended quietly. Except for several dozen youths who hoisted a PLO flag and chanted slogans, there were no special incidents.

King Husayn Confers With George Shultz 7 Apr

JN071913 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] His majesty the king met at Al-Nadwah Palace this evening with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. Mr Shultz, who arrived in Amman from Saudi Arabia where he met with King Fahd, is due to leave for home tomorrow.

Further on Document Presented to Shultz

JN071820 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz returned to Amman for the third time this evening. He was here this morning before leaving for Saudi Arabia. The secretary returned to resume his talks with Jordanian King Husayn on the possibility of bringing views closer vis-a-vis the U.S. peace plan.

A responsible Jordanian source last night told our radio that Jordan presented a written document to the U.S. secretary. This document includes three basic conditions which Jordan insists on including in the U.S. peace plan. They stem from the constants of the Jordanian policy. The same source said these conditions are:

1. The need to hold an effective international conference;

2. The need for Palestinian representation at the negotiating table through the PLO;

3. The need to hold negotiations on the basis of land for peace and Israel's complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in the June 1967 war.

It will be noted here that the U.S. secretary asked Middle East experts from the U.S. State Department to stay in Amman to study and assess the Jordanian document on the U.S. initiative. The U.S. experts comprise Bill Kirby, Shultz' special assistant, whom a U.S. diplomat in Amman described as the technician of the U.S. peace plan; (Karl Zell), an assistant to the U.S. secretary; and Wat Cluverius, a roving ambassador in the region.

Jordan is scheduled to declare the demands it presented to Shultz tomorrow afternoon, Friday, according to the same source.

Shultz will leave Amman for London tomorrow morning after holding a news conference with which he concludes his third Middle East tour in less than 2 months.

Information Minister on Arab Policy, Shultz

JN061805 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 5 Apr 88 pp 1, 22

[Interview with Information Minister Dr Hani al-Khasawinah by As'ad al-Samman—date; place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Al-Samman] What is your opinion about the Shultz tour and his meeting with Edward Said and Abu-Lughod?

[Al-Khasawinah] We are comfortable with the fact we are a state that weighs its steps and statements. This is a trait characterizing Jordanian policy, which is dictated by our deep sentiments regarding the Palestine question. The Palestine question, as you know, is the issue of all Arabs, the issue of the age. It is an issue that has been affected by a network of interests as well as historical, international, and pan-Arab considerations. Therefore, we in Jordan are instructed by His Majesty King Husayn personally to weigh our words. Hence, we know what we seek to achieve and have a deep sense of responsibility.

Furthermore, we strive to be accurate and careful in any statement or behavior required of us regarding the Palestine question. Regarding this issue, we believe the Arab nation and the Arab states, after the Amman summit, have delineated their objective regarding the convening of an international conference that guarantees the implementation of Resolutions Nos 242 and 338. An international conference to be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the Arab parties, including the PLO, is the vehicle for implementing these resolutions. This strategic directive guides our policies.

As a matter of fact, you know the king enjoys a special position in the international arena, especially in West Europe. This is a distinguished position. I can say that, thanks to this position, Jordan has managed to make the objective of convening a genuine and serious international conference one that is adopted by all European states without exception. Consequently, the U.S. Administration has begun to retreat from its previous stands. One more thing, following his visit to Jerusalem, Shultz spoke about the Palestinian people, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, and Palestinian territory. These statements were made to assure Jordan. King Husayn personally has played a major and important role in developing the political terminology in use and particularly American political terminology.

Of course, there is much to be done. We in Jordan are exerting enormous efforts in this regard. These efforts dictate that a joint Arab coordination be effected with Syria, Egypt, the PLO, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and all other Arab states, especially the Arab states directly concerned with the Palestine question. The recent tours of his majesty the king came about to preserve and unify the Arab stand regarding what the Arab nation can do to

alleviate the plight and sufferings of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories—the people who have been suffering for 4 months.

As regards the meeting between Shultz and Palestinian brothers Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, we welcome any positive step that brings the U.S. Administration toward a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. We welcome any U.S.-Palestinian meeting and consider it a positive step. Allow me to say that the materialization of this meeting can be attributed to the diplomatic efforts exerted by Jordan, to the endeavors exerted by his majesty the king, and to the Jordanian Government's endeavors, which resulted in convincing the United States and the European states of the need to cooperate with the Palestinian people and to deal with all aspects of the Palestine question. Therefore, any talk with Palestinian brothers in a representative capacity pleases us. So we welcome any such talks and meetings.

[Al-Samman] Do you believe this meeting was held because the two figures are two Americans of Palestinian origin or because they represent the PLO? And is this meeting a prelude for recognizing the PLO?

[Al-Khasawinah] As a matter of fact, I know nothing regarding this issue other than what has been published in U.S. newspapers—namely, that they are both Americans and PNC members. Nothing has reached us regarding what transpired in the meeting either from the American side or from Abu-Lughod and Edward Said. The only thing that has reached us is the statement by Abu-Lughod that they informed Shultz of the need to talk to the Palestinian people.

[Al-Samman] His majesty the king sent a message to Yasir 'Arafat inviting him to visit Jordan. What was the reply?

[Al-Khasawinah] The invitation has been accepted. However, arrangements are still under way to fix the date. They are only technical arrangements.

[Al-Samman] What about the meetings of the Jordanian-Palestinian committee?

[Al-Khasawinah] Brother As'ad, the Jordanian-Palestinian committee was entrusted with disbursing the aid allocated at the Baghdad summit to consolidate and support the Arab citizens' steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories. The committee distributes aid to the industrial, agricultural, and services sectors through a joint Jordanian-Palestinian effort. The meeting was successful.

[Al-Samman] How do you view the Israeli threats to Saudi Arabia?

[Al-Khasawinah] Brother As'ad, you realize Saudi Arabia's status to Jordan as well as the status any Arab country enjoys in Jordan. In other words, we consider Arab security as an integral unit. So, we consider Saudi Arabia's security part of our security in Jordan. That is why following these threats His Majesty King Husayn cabled His Majesty King Fahd voicing our support for Saudi Arabia. This matter is indisputable. We regard Saudi Arabia's security and its right to armament and to safeguarding its national defense as a right guaranteed by the international charters. Hence, we do not accept the undermining of Saudi Arabia.

[Al-Samman] His majesty the king played a major and important role in the mediation between the two sisterly countries Syria and Iraq. It is being said now that his majesty the king has stopped his mediation. How true is this?

[Al-Khasawinah] In fact, we in Jordan still recall and consider the importance of Arab meetings. We also emphasize that meetings among Arab countries will safeguard joint Arab security. So, despite Jordan's circumstances and the dangers posed to it and despite the fact that Jordan stands on the longest confrontation line, I discussed Jordan's support for Syria, our decisive support for Iraq, and also our support for Kuwait and the Gulf states against the threats posed to them. Moreover, we consider the Palestine question our own cause so we defended and adopted it. We also sent medical teams to southern Sudan to assist the inhabitants there. Under the personal supervision of His Highness Prince Hasan, who is the second man in the state, we also caution against the serious situation in southern Sudan.

Concerning Iraq and Syria, following the great mediation efforts exerted by His Majesty King Husayn between the leaders of the two fraternal countries, we are of the opinion now that an Arab who cannot in principle reconcile two Arab countries should stop talking. Therefore, we have the conviction that the dangers posed to the Arab nation will make it inevitable in the long run to hold meetings among Arab leaders.

[Al-Samman] Discussing Arab meetings, there is a call for holding an Arab summit conference. Do you believe such a conference will be held under these circumstances? Has Jordan responded favorably to this call?

[Al-Khasawinah] In fact, we have not yet received an official invitation to hold a summit conference. Such an invitation requires study and thorough consideration. As I said earlier, we in Jordan have a principled and known eagerness for holding meetings among Arab leaders. For 5 years King Husayn has toured Arab capitals to hold an Arab summit. Hence, we in principle support any Arab meeting. King Husayn may be the only Arab king or head of state who every 2 months makes a tour of his Arab brothers to hold consultations with them. We are always eager to hold consultations with the Arab leaders but an invitation for holding a comprehensive conference requires preparations.

Until such an invitation arrives in writing, we will continue to hold consultations with Arab parties interested in holding Arab meetings in a way that will make any Arab meeting something that enhances Arab unity and does not increase differences. A call for holding an Arab summit is a support for the uprising which was blessed by all Arabs and for which the Arab foreign ministers conference was held. Moreover, the seven-member committee still makes its tours to back the uprising. Out of our meticulous policy, we are keen to make Arab meetings a success. As soon as we receive a written invitation, we will thoroughly consider it in a way that will secure the effective participation of all Arab parties to enhance Arab action. [passage omitted]

[Al-Samman] Jordan has obtained arms from the United States, France, and England. Now it is moving toward the Soviet Union. Is this aimed at diversifying arms following the U.S. stand vis-a-vis Jordan's armament policy?

[Al-Khasawinah] We, for a period of time, have diversified the sources of arms supply. In Jordan, we have a pronouncement often made by King Husayn. For 15 years he has been saying that arms acquire the characteristics of their users. Whether we buy the arms from the Soviet Union, the United States, Europe, or Brazil, these arms take their characteristics from the hand that holds them. They become Arab or Jordanian. We have various sources for our arms. We thank God that we were able to absorb all these different schools in our Armed Forces. Sometimes some of the deals that we conclude are governed by the kinds of loans and finances we get.

We are a small country with a great pan-Arab burden. That is why we are obliged to spend large sums of money on the Armed Forces. We deduct these sums from development operations so we may protect our border and land and perform our pan-Arab role. We have different soruces of arms. Some, unfortunately, are financed by laons, especially since not all Arab aid has arrived. Some brothers were not able to pay their full commitments, so we took loans. This is one of the reasons for concluding some arms deals. Our arms sources are various, and we are able to absorb them. Arms must constantly be renewed. We are keeping up with arms developments and the possession of arms.

[Al-Samman] Undoubtedly and as you said, Jordan is a confrontation state with the longest frontline border. The Arab summit in Baghdad had allocated certain sums of money to Jordan, but these were stopped for certain special reasons. Has the Amman Arab summit discussed the issue of this suspended financial aid and other aid?

[Al-Khasawinah] This subject was not discussed as a separate item. Despite the big burdens resulting from recession in Jordan and the fact that we stand on the longest confrontation line, and also despite the big burdens of maintaining our Army and Air Force and our obligations to the West Bank as well as maintaining our national economy, we have not complained through the press or used any harsh words. We simply said there has been a delay in the payment of the installments, knowing that in the long term an Arab will not let his brother down.

[Al-Samman] Some people have proposed a federation between the West Bank and Jordan and others have proposed a confederation. Is there anything new on this subject?

[Al-Khasawinah] Actually, we believe that the main thing is to convene a serious international conference to end the Palestinian people's sufferings and the occupation. Putting the Palestinian-Jordanian house in order and regulating inter-Arab relations should come later. That is the easiest thing in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Efforts now must be concentrated on unifying the Arabs behind the Palestinian people to secure international backing for the international conference which would guarantee Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The regulation of Jordanian-Palestinian, Jordanian-Syrian, Jordanian-Egyptian, and intra-Palestinian relations would come later. These problems, which seem difficult, will be easy for the Arab mind to solve.

Columnist on Shultz Plan, News Conference

JN071216 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
7 Apr 88 p 24

[The "Everday" column: "And May God Reward You for Offering Your Condolences" by Tariq Masariwah]

[Text] Secretary of State Shultz has buried his initiative in Tel Aviv. He is scheduled to return to Washington tomorrow to announce that he has not been able to save Israel from the Israelis. The U.S. secretary of state belongs to a group within the U.S. Administration that believes Israel is too precious to be left to the Israelis and that although it did not achieve anything, Shultz' initiative constitutes a U.S. commitment to the peace of Israel and to the interests of Israel.

We believe the Shultz initiative has provided Amman, Damascus, and the PLO with a great opportunity to demonstrate a mature, firm, and concerted stand without any bombast in the media. After being acquainted with the resulting stand on Monday night, we can say it is an Arab stand in which the three sides did not relinquish a grain of our national rights or betray a single drop of the blood shed by our martyrs or a cry of agony by our people. The Arab negotiator insists on:

—Complete withdrawal from the occupied territory.

—The Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the PLO's right to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people at the international conference.

—The constant and continuing presence of the five permanent members of the Security Council at all international conference negotiations.

Tactically, the Arab side was anxious not to reject or accept, so the U.S. initiative would come against the wall of Israeli rejection. The worst thing in the secretary of state's moves was his adoption of the "moderate" Labor Party's noes:

—No to the return to the 1967 borders.

—No to the PLO.

—No to the Palestinian state.

What was even worse than that was the attempt to drag any Arab side he could persuade into the game of conflicting stands between the Labor Party and the Likud in order to use the Arab prey in the process of persuading the Likud and Yitzhaq Shamir.

Together with our colleagues the editors in chief, we heard at the news conference, which came to nothing, words from Secretary of State Shultz that shame Ari'el Sharon. Secretary of State Shultz also heard from the Jordanian journalists what every Arab should say to U.S. policy.

May you be well in the next season of initiatives.

U.S. Must Seek Peace, Not Arab 'Complacency'

JN080820 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
8 Apr 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Shultz at the Crossroads"]

[Text] The firm Jordanian stand that was upheld during Shultz' talks in Amman has been received with deep appreciation by the Arabs. That Jordanian stand insists on convening an international conference with full powers, a Palestinian presence at the conference chosen by the PLO, and a commitment to the principle of territory in return for peace and applying that principle in a manner that leads to Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territory. Thus it has been confirmed to Shultz once again that the Arab stand on the essence of peace is a clear and joint stand and there is no room to look for contradictions or loopholes.

Thus one can say the ball is still where it was, in the Israeli court, and that the U.S. initiative, which Shultz insists is still alive, is now at the crossroads: Either it retains the elements of life, which are the elements of peace represented by the Jordanian stand, or it becomes a memory of an unsuccessful tactical operation that history places in the basket of similar operations that lacked adequate credibility to contribute to a just and comprehensive peace in the area.

The U.S. secretary of state has found in all the Arab capitals he visited a genuine willingness to establish the desired peace. Now he has to decide whether his role can respond positively to the honorable willingness to activate the peace process or whether it is incapable of responding to facts because of the strategic ties that bind U.S. and Israeli policies.

In any case, whatever the nature of U.S.-Israeli relations, one must emphasize that the pillars of peace cannot be reduced, that is, peace cannot be established on some of these pillars but not others. One must also emphasize that the relative peace that occurs to the U.S. mind does not exist. The U.S. mind thinks such a relative peace can be achieved by embroiling the Arabs in a series of interim negotiations whose objectives are not defined, while Israel continues its diversionary efforts on the pretext of peace so as to consolidate its presence in the occupied territory and to prepare for a new round of aggression that leads to imposing capitulation on the Arabs.

Either there is a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace or there is no peace. This fact has been confirmed by the results of the Camp David accords, for they have failed to bring peace, even temporary peace, to the region. It is now clearer than ever that the region is being severely shaken as a result of the absence of real peace.

Therefore, U.S. policy must not ignore the essence of peace and must not confuse peace with the state of complacency that Israel wants to impose on the Arab region. Just as the Arabs are serious in wanting to achieve genuine peace in the region, they are also fully alert to attempts to tranquilize them so they can be led into a state of complacency. Undoubtedly, this fact has become crystal clear to Shultz and deserves his understanding and respect.

Hijacked Kuwaiti Plane Seeks Beirut Landing

NC081643 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1545 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The hijacked Kuwaiti plane, which took off from Mashhad Airport in Iran shortly before noon today, is now circling over Beirut International Airport, trying to land there—so far in vain.

The aircraft captain contacted the control tower and spoke to air traffic controllers asking permission to land, if only for 5 minutes to refuel the plane, as it is running short of fuel.

The airport authorities have made a firm decision to not allow the plane to land on any of the runways, all of which are closed. The captain resumed contact with the control tower, saying he insists on landing. He told the air traffic controllers to contact the minister of works.

The captain established contact for a third time, requesting permission to land, affirming he is running out of fuel and requesting that the minister of the interior or the minister of works come to the airport. Internal security forces and Syrian officials got in touch with the minister of the interior for instructions.

In the latest conversation with the control tower a short time ago, the captain said: A weapon is pointed at my head and I request permission to land for refueling.

An air traffic controller replied: We have been living under the threat of arms for 14 years now. We are still awaiting instructions as to whether we should grant permission for the aircraft to land.

The hijacked Kuwaiti plane is still circling Beirut Airport at low altitude. [passage omitted]

Al-Jumayyil, Secretary Shultz Meet in Cyprus

NC080923 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpt] A round of talks was held at 1030 today in the VIP lounge of Larnaca Airport between President Amin al-Jumayyil and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The talks lasted approximately 1 hour, during which they reviewed all aspects of the Lebanese issue, particularly progress in U.S.-Syrian talks on political reforms in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Fatah Says 'Silco' Hostages in Good Health

NC071614 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Regarding the "Silco" yacht hostages, Lucien Bitterlin, chairman of the French-Arab Solidarity Association, has asserted that the Fatah movement led by Abu Nidal has given him assurances on the fate of the eight French and Belgian hostages it has been holding for 5 months. The movement said that they are in good health.

Bitterlin will visit Hizballah spiritual guide Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today. He met with Minister Birri yesterday.

Fadlallah Says 3 French Hostages May Be Released

LD080858 Paris Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The three French hostages held in Lebanon may be released before or during the presidential election. This was confided to Lucien Bitterlin, president of the French-Arab Solidarity Association, by Shaykh Fadlallah, religious leader of the pro-Iranian Lebanese Shi'ites.

The latter said the release will depend on the improvement of relations between Paris and Tehran. Reasons of state are needed in addition to humanitarian considerations.

Reportage on Continuing Amal, Hizballah Fighting

17 Dead, 60 Wounded

NC070655 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] There is a certain measure of tension in the areas where Amal and Hizballah have been fighting in the South. This is particularly true with regard to Al-Nabatiyah, 'Arab Salim, Iqlim al-Tuffah, Al-Ghaziyah, and Jibshit, where sporadic scattered shelling and rounds of machinegun fire can be heard.

Security sources have told our radio that the fighting spread during the night to the Tapline installations, where a fuel tank was completely destroyed after it was hit and caught fire. Militiamen of the Nasirite Popular Organization are still blocking the coastal road at Jisr Siniq. [passage omitted]

The recent casualty toll indicates that 17 have been killed and nearly 60 wounded in the past 36 hours.

Syrians Assist Amal

NC071418 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Amal and Hizballah clashed today in Iqlimal-Tuffah, 'Arab Salim, and Al-Ghaziyah. The fighting was particularly fierce in Al-Ghaziyah, where Palestinians participated in the battles, helping Hizballah gain control of Amal positions there. [passage omitted]

According to AFP, the pro-Iranian Hizballah militia gained control of Al-Ghaziyah, the sole route to the Shi'ite areas in South Lebanon, after 5 hours of fierce fighting with the pro-Syrian Amal. During the fighting,

in which artillery and anti-tank weapons were used, Hizballah broke through Amal's lines into the town, which is situated south of Sidon.

According to later reports, Hizballah militiamen have taken positions around the town's mosque, having overcome the main Amal stronghold there. The Amal militiamen still hold other positions inside Al-Ghaziyah.

Amal fighters in Maghdushah waged a counterattack on Hizballah in an attempt to regain their positions. The battle spread later on to the Mi'mariyat hills, 'Aqtanit, and Al-Hajjah, in the region southeast of Al-Ghaziyah. It should be recalled that there are strongholds of the Faithful Resistance in Al-Hajjah and Mi'mariyat.

According to certain reports, the Al-Ghaziyah clashes began after Syrian forces helped Amal move personnel and materiel from the southern suburb of Beirut to Al-Nabatiyah and Tyre. It is also said that the Amal movement sent some of the Hizballah members whom it captured to makeshift detention centers in Tyre, a move which threatens to spread violence to that city. [passage omitted]

In another development, the Syrian forces stormed positions of the fundamentalists in Beirut's southern suburb. This was in response to certain pro-Hizballah statements which were read out in the suburb's mosques. [passage omitted]

Al-Ghaziyah Changes Hands

NC071450 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Citing various sources, AFP reported a short while ago that the Amal movement has regained control of a large part of Al-Ghaziyah town. According to sources close to the fundamentalists and the security apparatus in the South, the fundamentalists took control of Al-Ghaziyah during the night, but Amal fighters regained a large part of the town today, pushing Hizballah troops southward. Amal, for its part, said 50 Hizballah fighters had surrendered during the fighting.

REUTER news agency has quoted Abu Samir, Hizballah military official in Al-Ghaziyah, as saying: We entered this war in response to the offensives against us. We do not want this fighting, but we need to change the situation in the South.

Meanwhile, in Tyre, clashes between Amal and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards have taken place near the Guards' cultural center. Amal managed to repulse the fundamentalists, but two of its members were wounded. Tension runs high throughout the city, where traffic in the streets has come to a standstill.

Furthermore, Amal continues to besiege Siddiqin, southeast of Tyre and Hizballah's main stronghold. According to security sources, Amal has 30,000 fighters, compared to Hizballah's 5,000. The same sources add that a large number of Amal fighters are involved in the fighting.

New Ceasefire Announced

NC071605 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] After clashes which claimed 11 lives and wounded over 40 members of the Amal movement and Hizballah in the South, a ceasefire was announced at 1600 today. So far, the ceasefire has been observed. [passage omitted]

The clashes abated in the wake of an expanded meeting in the residence of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council. Attending the meeting were Ahmad Dastmalchian, the Iranian ambassador to Lebanon; an Iranian envoy who arrived from Damascus; and representatives of Hizballah and the Amal movement. The conferees have agreed to send representatives to the South to deal with the situation.

In Sidon, the Popular Nasirite Organization has held a meeting to discuss ways of preventing Sidon from becoming involved in the conflict. It is worth noting that the attack against an Amal checkpoint in Al-Ghaziyah was carried out with support from Islamic groups in Sidon, according to the Amal movement. [passage omitted]

Al-Nabatiyah Road Opened

NC071757 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] According to the latest reports on the situation in Al-Ghaziyah, calm has been gradually returning to the town since 1700 today. An Amal movement source has reported that Amal fighters have regained control of the coastal road, Al-Ghaziyah, and Qanarit after fierce clashes with Hizballah fighters.

The source added that Hizballah fighters in Tuffahta, Ghassaniyah, 'Adlun, Al-Insariyah, and Kawthariyat al-Siyad have surrendered their weapons to Amal. According to the source, these areas are noticeably calm because their inhabitants refused to get involved in the fighting among the sons of the same cause. [passage omitted]

There were reports that explosions had been heard in the Al-Zahrani area and Qanarit. Amal sources in Al-Nabatiyah said that their fighters have seized control of Qanarit and released military official Ahmad 'Umayshi who was kidnapped 2 days ago. [passage omitted]

The main road in Al-Nabatiyah, which was closed for 2 days, was opened today. Citizens there came out to inspect their shops. Al-Nabatiyah's marketplace suffered

heavily, and dozens of cars and telephone cables were damaged by the fighting. Losses are estimated at tens of millions of pounds. [passage omitted]

Gunmen Kill 5 Wounded People

NC071949 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tonight, gunmen manning a checkpoint in the Al-'Aqbiyah area intercepted Red Cross ambulances which were transporting five injured persons from the 'Ala al-Din hospital in Al-Sarafand. The gunmen killed the five wounded persons.

Hizballah gunmen at the Revolutionary Guards center in Tyre handed over their weapons to the Amal movement at 1800 tonight.

A joint Hizballah-Amal delegation arrived in Sidon tonight to supervise the ceasefire. A meeting is now being held in the house of Scholar Muhammad Hasan al-Amin.

51 Killed; 130 Wounded

NC080610 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Excerpt] According to the most recent security reports from the South, calm prevails in areas where ferocious fighting has taken place between Amal and Hizballah. Meanwhile, the Al-Ghaziyah-Al-Zahrani road is now passable. The areas of Al-Ghaziyah and Qanarit were scenes of fierce fighting between Amal and Hizballah yesterday.

Security sources have said that some 51 people have been killed and 130 others wounded in the 3-day fighting. Thirty-nine people were killed in yesterday's fighting, which resulted in Amal regaining Al-Ghaziyah and Qanarit. [passage omitted]

8 Amal Members Found Hanged

NC080608 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri said yesterday that eight Amal members were found hanged in Al-Ghaziyah. 'Ali Hassan Qasim, Husayn al-Ma'az, Mahir Jabir, Muhammad Mahmud Sallum, Fadi Khudur, and Husayn Mahmud Sa'd were among those hanged. Amal's military officer in Siddiqin, Hasan al-Yatim, was also killed by Hizballah gunmen.

Afghanistan

Wakil Says Geneva Accord 'Ready for Signature'

AU081206 Paris AFP in English 1022 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva, April 8 (AFP)—Afghan Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil said Friday that an Afghan peace accord reached in indirect negotiations here with Pakistan is "ready for signature."

Mr Wakil had just had talks with United Nationas mediator Diego Cordovez when he announced that "the documents are ready for signature," but he did not give a date for signing.

It was the first time that the chief Afghan negotiator had confirmed there was agreement here on all four points of the accord: non-interference and non-intervention in Afghanisatan, the voluntary return of several million Afghan refugees, international guarantees (from Moscow and Washington), and the phased withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Cordovez on Signing Date

AU081306 Paris AFP in English 1243 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Geneva, April 8 (AFP)—United Nations mediator Diego Cordovez said Friday that a "historic" Afghan peace accord had been reached here after six years of indirect talks between Pakistan and Afghanistan and was ready to be signed.

"The documents have been finalized and are open for signature," Mr Cordovez said. A date for signing, "not later than April 14," would be fixed later Friday.

Two of the four main clauses in the accord cover the voluntary return to Afghanistan of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and a bilateral agreement on mutual non-interference and non-intervention.

The others provide for international guarantees by Moscow and Washington, and what Mr Cordovez described as "inter-relationships for the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan." This is understood to cover the withdrawal of the 115,000 Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Mr Cordovez added that a fifth clause was a memorandum of understanding on monitoring arrangements, to be provided by the United Nations.

The Soviet Union is expected to begin a phased nine-month withdrawal of its troops, who first entered Afghanistan in December 1979, on May 15.

Mr Cordovez said he was "authorized to state" that a comprehensive settlement implied the participation of all segments of the Afghan people, "best ensured" by a broad-based government in Kabul.

He called on Afghans inside and outside the country to "respond to this historic opportunity."

Earlier Friday, the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance, based in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar, rejected the Geneva negotiations and any agreement that might be reached here.

Alliance leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, head of the Islamic fundamentalist Hezb-i-Islami Party, said an accord would not end the war in Afghanistan and allow for the repatriation of Afghan refugees living in Peshawar.

The Geneva agreement came a day after Mr Gorbachev and Mr Najibullah met in the Soviet republic of Uzbekistan.

It was understood here Friday that Washington and Moscow had agreed to continue supplying the resistance and Kabul respectively after Soviet troops leave Afghanistan.

In Islamabad, U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci said Washington had insisted on "symmetry"—meaning a simultaneous ending or continuation of U.S. aid to Afghan mujahidin rebels and Soviet assistance to the Kabul government.

Mr Carlucci was asked how continued military supplies could be reconciled with the Geneva accord guaranteeing no foreign interference in Afghanistan after a Soviet withdrawal.

He said that legal experts would discuss the matter and he was confident that final documents "will be developed in such a way that this issue can be satisfactorily resolved".

But he warned: "It is premature to assume that if the Soviets withdraw, all the problems of Afghanistan will be resolved. I think there will continue to be some problems that will have to be addressed."

He did not elaborate.

USSR Cooperation Documents Signed in Kabul

LD072156 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The protocol of the eighth session of the standing intergovernmental Afghan-Soviet commission for economic cooperation, and a number of documents on bilateral cooperation were concluded at the Council of Ministers Gol Khana Palace yesterday afternoon in the presence of Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand.

The protocol was signed and exchanged by Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Afghan side, and Vsevolod Serafimovich Murakhovskiy,

first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and chairman of the Soviet side. They signed on behalf of their respective governments.

Documents concern the continuation of transfer of free economic assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan in 1988 in the fields of public health, education and training, and development of information and communications were exchanged. They represent a total worth of up to R30, million which was not utilized in 1987 and are connected with an agreement dated 26 March 1987 and an Afghan-Soviet protocol dated 18 April [date as heard]. These documents were concluded by Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, and Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

Another document, concerning assistance in the exploitation of Afghan-Soviet cooperation projects embodied in the Afghan-Soviet agreement of 11 July 1972 [as heard] on economic and technical assistance for a 1-year period and also on the renewal of the period for assistance in carrying out geological exploration in Afghanistan on the basis of the above agreement for the period of 1 year, was also concluded between Mahbubullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and head of the State Planning Committee, and Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

A document about a 1-year extension of the work of nine Soviet experts, including an interpreter, in civic construction in order to carry out tasks to implement and develop a master plan for Kabul City, was also concluded by Muhammad Hakim, deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Osadchuk, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

A document on setting up projects to manufacture 1.5 million pairs of galoshes per year and 500 tonnes of candy per year in Mazar-e Sharif; a spinning factory with the capacity to produce 600 tonnes of thread per year, two oxygen-producing plants with the total capacity of 26,000 gallons per year, and a biscuit factory with the capacity of 1 tonne per shift in Kabul City; a biscuit factory with the capacity of 300 tonnes per year in Herat City; six bakeries in Logar, Fariab, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Doshi, and Herat Provinces with the capacities 2-6 tonnes per 24 hours; and two liquid oxygen plants in Parwan and Nangarhar Provinces, were also concluded today. These documents were signed by Commerce Minister Muhammad Khan Jalalar and Osadchuk.

Present during the signing of the protocol [words indistinct] and the above documents were Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister; the ministers of mines and industries, agriculture and land reform, irrigation and water resources, high and vocational education, and public health; and Nikolay Grigoryevich Yegorychev, USSR ambassador and extraordinary representative in Kabul. After signing the above document, Muhammad 'Aziz and Murakhovskiy spoke about economic and technical cooperation and the free assistance of the Soviet Union.

Murakhovskiy, Delegation Depart

LD071944 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The high-ranking delegation from the Soviet Union led by Vsevolod Serafimovich Murakhovskiy, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the USSR State Agro-Industrial Committee, which came to Kabul at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan to participate in the eighth session of the Soviet-Afghan intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation, left Kabul this morning for the Soviet Union.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan; Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and chairman of the Afghan side of the standing Soviet-Afghan intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation; Muhammad Hakim and Mahbubullah Koshani, deputy prime ministers; Nikolay Yegorychev, USSR ambassador plenipotentiary and extraordinary to the Republic of Afghanistan; a number of members of government; and members of the Afghan side of the standing Afghan-Soviet intergovernmental commission for economic cooperation.

National Assembly Elections Continue

LD080603 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0503 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, April 7, BAKHTAR—Election to the National Assembly enters its third day. Tens of thousands of people reported to their polling stations and cast their ballots to their desired candidates. The number of voters was higher in election polls as compared with the previous days.

On the first and second days, over 316 thousand persons cast their ballots to their desired candidates.

According to the latest report, despatched from Herat Province, out of 49,525 voters five hundred persons were among the opposition who reported to their polling stations and cast their ballots to their desired candidates. Despite the plots by the extremists to disrupt the election work, the people in Herat Province continued going to their polling stations in order to vote for their desired candidates.

Over one thousand persons from Faryab Province reported to five polling stations and fourteen voting centers and cast their ballots to eleven candidates of their own desire.

The participation of clergymen, members of party and social organisations, opposition and other strata of the people in that province is testifying to the fact that the policy of national reconciliation has its effects on our people. They also consider the election to the National Assembly as a reflection of coalition administration and realisation of a genuine democracy in the country.

The popular state of the Republic of Afghanistan has paved the ground for active participation in election work. It has provided transport vehicles in various areas of the city as well as in rural areas. All expenses of the election work as contrary to the past are borne by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Qandahar Voting Boxes Stolen

BK080120 Hong Kong AFP in English 0046 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Islamabad, April 7 (AFP)—Afghan resistance rebels stormed eight polling centres in the southern city of Qandahar and made off with ballot boxes containing votes for parliamentary elections, resistance sources said Thursday.

Afghan President Najibullah called nationwide elections to elect a bi-cameral parliament amid indications that Soviet troops stationed in Afghanistan would be withdrawn from the country later this year.

The Kabul regime had reserved some seats for the opposition but leaders of the seven-party Afghan resistance alliance rejected the "government-controlled elections as a farce."

Rebel groups attacked eight polling centres in Qandahar on Tuesday, when the 10 day balloting exercise got under way..

Resistance sources said violence had marred polling in other areas, but gave no details.

Najibullah Holds News Conference 31 Mar

LD042100 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 1 Apr 88

[News conference given by President Najibullah to domestic and foreign correspondents and participants in the AAPSO conference on 31 March at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kabul; questions read by unidentified moderator—recorded]

[Text] [Najibullah] Dear friends, esteemed Khaleq Morad, acting chairman of AAPSO, gentlemen and ladies:

I praise the work of your conference and I know that you are satisfied with the discussions and organization of this gathering. Your appreciation, expressed to the organizers and hosts of this conference, were conveyed to me. In return, we also express profound appreciation for your putting aside your work and coming together in the capital of Afghanistan to use your minds and play your role in solving issues that worry all mankind.

Today, we can discuss the role of social organizations in solving regional conflicts. This role is important, its power is real, and its results are full of hope. The bitter lesson of history teaches us that regional conflicts—or, as the journalists call them, low-intensity warfare—can enflame large wars. Moreover, these lessons reveal that the solution of regional conflicts by war is not possible. For their solution, it is very important that the right of every nation to independently choose its path to progress be officially recognized.

Respect for the independence of every nation, every state—whether large or small, developed or developing—is very important. There are many regional conflicts in the world. Among them, the conflict in Afghanistan, one of the most severe and difficult conflicts of our time, holds a special place. We are constantly looking for ways to achieve a political solution to this problem. When we analyzed the statistics of the multiyear undeclared war, we saw that by war we have not even solved one part of the problem.

In drawing such a conclusion, we did not sit still; but, based on objectivity and realistic analysis, we have gone ahead and designed a policy that has become today a major factor in international politics. My goal is the policy of national reconciliation.

I hope that the principles and fundamental objectives of this policy are clear to you. Briefly, the policy of national reconciliation means resolute rejection of war and harshness as a way of solving internal political problems. This policy, in its ultimate meaning, is dutybound to defend and secure the right to life as a natural and sacred right of mankind. This policy persistently requires that the interests of all people and the interests of national unity be put above the limited and narrow-minded tribal, group, and party interests.

We have established a specific program for the creation of political pluralism encompassing all political forces, strata, and classes who accept the principle of national unity and refrain from armed struggle. This system is embodied in the new constitution which was endorsed in the supreme gathering of the people, the Loya Jirgah, convened according to the tradition of Afghan society.

The ideals of reconciliation and national dialogue have brought about broad reflection in the world. The policy of national reconciliation has been transformed into an objective possibility for the solution of difficult conflicts that involve meaningless sacrifices and destruction. The ideals of dialogue, the revival of unity, and national peace have attracted the support and special interest of

the countries of the region whose people have been forced to continue their armed struggle for long years against foreign interference in defense of national sovereignty and national unity.

It is important that the policy of national reconciliation, which is now a part of the history of human civilization, be supported by you and the world public. I resolutely believe that our path is the only correct path. There is no alternative.

As to the results of the first year of national reconciliation: Satisfactory figures were presented by Keshtmand, prime minister Of Afghanistan, in his message to the participants of the conference. Here I want to emphasize the fundamental issue: The policy of national reconciliation is supported by the people of Afghanistan. It is possible for all nationalities, social strata, and those who value the future of the people to take part in the social and political life, and this is guaranteed by law.

The form of the coalition administration of the country will be established. It has been proposed that the opposition take part in the formation of power organs. High-level posts in the government and organs of the state administration have been proposed to the opposition. I will try to give specific figure when answering your questions. For the sake of the supreme interests of the people of Afghanistan, the PDPA gave it the monopoly on power.

The law on political parties which was endorsed last year envisages the creation of a multiparty system in the country, and now this system is in the process of formation. The election campaign for the National Assembly—the first democratic general election for the country's parliament in the history of Afghanistan—is going to begin.

We do not hide the fact that the policy of national reconciliation met enormous difficulties during its implementation. The policy of national reconciliation was confronted with the stubborn resistance of the extremist circles of the opposition, backed by the reactionary forces of the region and international imperialism. Parallel to the increasing success of national reconciliation, foreign military and political interference in the internal affairs of our country has been intensified. The level of destructive actions against the people of Afghanistan has increased many times.

The United States and its NATO allies are supplying the extremists groups with most modern weapons. These weapons above all have been used against the country's civilian population. This takes place during our announced unilateral cease-fire. There are many fact to demonstrate that the Pakistani and Irani rulers have actively created barriers to the return of refugees of their ancestral land and that they practice blackmail and assassination.

In delaying the solution of the problems in Afghanistan, including the Geneva talks, the international imperialist circles utilize this for their own political objectives; and the extremist circles of the opposition, receiving expensive gifts from their masters, are profiting enormously. It is a secret from no one how the so-called assistance to the refugees is being used.

The development of the Geneva talks clearly shows who is earnestly making efforts for the political solution of the problems and who is seeking to drag this process to failure by producing new unreasonable proposals and creating obstacles to the signing of the accord.

The cause of all complications in regional conflicts...[Najibullah pauses] despite all difficulties in the solution of this problem, the main factor is the right of the people to determine their own destiny. These problems can only be solved by observing the lawful rights of the people, without dictation and without interference from abroad. This applies in the Middle East, South America, Africa, Cambodia, and Afghanistan.

We optimistically assess the future of national reconciliation and a political solution to Afghanistan's problem. We fully believe in the people's strength and support, and the force of public opinion in the world.

Dear friends, by your peace-creating activity you have accomplished many things. However, there are other noble tasks. The role of human society in spreading the truth about undeclared war, explaining the situation in the countries affected by conflicts who have been sacrificed in these wars is formidable. Let the progressive societies succeed in this task so that regional conflicts can be transformed into regional cooperation, and as a result of this peace regions can be created. Now I am ready to reply your questions. [applause]

[Moderator] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, allow me to read questions reporters have submitted in writing. Would you please reply to them:

Question by the correspondents from Greece, Cyprus, KABUL NEW TIMES, [name indistinct] weekly of Japan, the participant delegation of Iran's Feda'i-ye Khalq organization—Majority Wing, the Moscow radio correspondent, and the editor of SOUTH LONDON magazine; they ask:

What should we expect from the election? Will this election create the possibility of calming the situation in the country? Which parties have announced their plans to take part in the election? Is the participation of Afghans who live in Western countries possible?

[Najibullah] The National Assembly elections will begin 5-15 April. The people of Afghanistan for the first time in history will have the opportunity in a democratic manner to elect their delegates and senators to the

highest legislative organ of the country, the National Assembly. Elections, in full conformity with the constitution, will be convened in the entire country on the basis of equal and direct rights and secret voting. We regard the National Assembly elections as the greatest gain of the policy of national reconciliation. In fact, it is the practical implementation of our new politics, that is, the multiparty system and coalition. Election is democracy not in word but in deed.

The leftist democratic parties—that is, the PDPA; the Revolutionary Organization of Afghanistan's Working People; and the Working People's Organization of Afghanistan; the Islamic Party of the People of Afghanistan; and the Peasantry Justice Party of Afghanistan—have announced their decision to participate in the elections.

The opposition, refugees, and nomadic tribes can propose their candidates. I can say that about 30 percent of the National Assembly seats have been allocated to them. Of a total of 229 election constituencies, 45 are located in the area under the control of the opposition. Let the people elect those who are worthy, in their view, of becoming delegates.

I think that elections provide the possibility of electing a parliament of the people's representatives, all nationalities, tribes and clans, all strata and categories of the inhabitants, all parties and organizations, in a democratic manner. Obviously the elections can provide an opportunity to take even further and quicker steps for the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, for the restoration of peace and calm in the country.

[Moderator] Question by the participant delegation of Iran's Feda'i-ye Khalq organization—Majority Wing: How much will the policy of national reconciliation assist the evolution of the social pillars of the party and government? What are its specific gains?

[Najibullah] The policy of national reconciliation has called on all patriotic forces. The social pillars of the government authority have been noticably broadened and expanded. As to the results of this policy, we can judge them on the basis of statistics. Here are some figures:

During the year of reconciliation, 120,000 of our compatriots returned to the nest of their families despite obstacles created by the governments of Pakistan and Iran. This figure shows an increase by 25 times in comparison to the previous years. In addition, 3,200 villages were peacefully liberated; and 40,000 armed men laid down their weapons. Alongside the government, they actively discharge their duties in safeguarding security both in projects and in their residential areas. Six thousand former members of the opposition have actively taken part in the activities of the local organs. The major gain of this policy is that the people believe in the cessation of war and support this policy; I think this is the greatest gain of the policy of national reconciliation.

[Moderator] Question by the correspondent of AKAHATA of Japan: How do you assess the recent meeting between the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States?

[Najibullah] Afghanistan welcomes every international effort directed at eliminating the nuclear danger. The result of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Soviet Union and the United States, held in Washington, was a noticeable step on this noble path.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the same correspondent of AKAHATA weekly of Japan: What are the characteristics of the future government? Will you allow some of your opposition to be included in the composition of the government? To what extent are you ready for compromise with the opposition? Another question: is it true that the post of prime minister will be given to the opposition forces?

Another question: What are the government's chances of reaching agreement with an opposition made up of radicals and moderates? Do you have in mind different approaches for these categories; if so, what are these approaches?

[Najibullah] The future government will be a broad-based coalition government. The principle of approaches for its formation can only be summarized in this manner: It will be democratic and will secure equal representation for all forces, including the opposition. As to who should be appointed which posts, I think that issue will be resolved by the National Assembly. As for the prime minister post, we have said many times that we are even prepared to leave it for the opposition too.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by (Abuzaki), deputy counsellor of the Revolutionary Council of Ghana: In the spirit of compromise, what guarantees will be given by your revolutionary leadership so that the revolution continues and peace is restored?

[Najibullah] Our purpose is to make the policy of national reconciliation irreversible. In making the policy of national reconciliation irreversible, I think the largest gains of the party and revolution are hidden in the restoration of peace and calm in the country.

[Moderator] Thank you. Questions by [word indistinct] weekly: How do you assess the future development of the internal political situation in Afghanistan in the event an agreement is reached in Geneva? In your view, how will

the positive changes in the international situation and the subsequent development of the situation around Afghanistan affect the situation inside the country?

[Najibullah] We believe that reaching an agreement in Geneva not only will assist the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation but also will accelerate it, and thus assist the normalization of the internal political situation in Afghanistan.

As to the second part of your question, I can say that we are living in an interrelated world; any positive development that takes place in the present world situation undoubtedly will have a positive effect on the political solution of the events around Afghanistan and on the implementation of the national reconciliation policy, and will play a major role in restoring peace in our country.

[Moderator] Question by NOVOSTI PRESS AGENCY: In your view, can you assess the U.S. Administration's demand for a bilateral halt of assistance to the armed opposition of Afghanistan and the legal government of Afghanistan as an effort by the U.S. Administration to put the opposition forces they themselves are oranizing and the government struggling against them on the same level?

[Najibullah] The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan has diplomatic and political relations with 83 countries in the world. Afghanistan is an active member of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and other international organizations. I think putting a country that is recognized by these international organizations on a level with opposition forces is irrational and violates international law.

Our people receive assistance from the Soviet Union and other countries on the basis of bilateral agreements from the past decade, and no one has the right to repel them by force. We have faith in this and we believe it.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the peace committee of Lebanon: What is your view about the struggle by the Lebanese people against the Israeli occupiers?

[Najibullah] We fully support the persecuted and misery-stricken people of Lebanon, and we support the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all interested parties; we regard this as necessary and essential.

[Moderator] Question by the KABUL TIMES newspaper: What is your view about the prospect of ending the undeclared war against the Republic of Afghanistan after signing the Geneva accords without a guarantee by the United States?

[Najibullah] The Geneva accords can be signed without a U.S. guarantee. However, we were and are interested in the United States becoming one of the guarantor parties. Under these circumstances, the United States will be judged by world opinion.

[Moderator] Thank you. Question by the representative of Palestine: After the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and signing of the Geneva accords, how will Afghanistan stand vis-a-vis the people of Palestine and their struggle against imperialism and Zionism?

[Najibullah] Both now and in the future, the people of Afghanistan will be unshakeable in their fraternal solidarity and all-round support.

[Moderator] Question by the NEW ZEALAND PRESS ASSOCIATION: It has been said that the PRC interferes in the internal affairs of Afghanistan through Afghan partisans. What is your view of this? What is the situation along the border between the two countries?

[Najibullah] Regrettably, the PRC, despite a desire by the people of Afghanistan, extends all-round assistance not only to the partisans but also to the extremist opposition groups; this is a fact.

We are hopeful that this assistance and negative approach vis-a-vis the Republic of Afghanistan by PRC will end as soon as possible. We think that the PRC, as a socialist country, can play a worthy role in the development of a revolutionary Afghanistan.

We have no border problem with China.

[Moderator] Question from the Lebanese Peace Committee: How do you assess the ICO's stand on the situation around Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] As is known, the Pakistani proposal to establish a provisional government in Afghanistan was not supported by the participants of the 17th ICO Foreign Ministers Conference. This is a positive stand.

We are also grateful to King Husayn of Jordan for his appeal to all Afghans to participate in the process of national reconciliation and the consolidation of unity.

[Moderator] Question from Professor (Tankero) from the United States: How do you assess socio-political forces which have come into existence after the April Revolution?

[Najibullah] Two aspects that have affected the country's political life since the April Revolution can be noticed. First, it has helped the dynamism of all political social processes and has brought a motif to the development of its organizability. Today, our country's National Front

has united all patriotic and progressive forces on the basis of the national reconciliation platform for economic and social development.

Second, the April Revolution and national reconciliation, as a continuation of the April Revolution, has been transformed into a specific dividing line among the existing social and political forces. The April Revolution separated from each other that forces which express and defend the real interests of the people of Afghanistan from those which are in the service of international and regional reactionaries.

In the current of national reconciliation the balance of power has changed more then before in the interest of national and patriotic forces. In this we see the guarantee of peace in the land of Afghanistan and the guarantee that our people shall only be engaged in peaceful and creative work.

[Moderator] Question from the reporter from SAMATH CHAKARWATI of India: What role has your national reconciliation policy, which was declared in January 1987, played in the creation of the present situation, which has made possible the political solution to the situation around Afghanistan? What is your view about the role of the Indian Government in helping to find a political solution to this problem?

[Najibullah] In my opinion, it is very difficult in such a short time to explain the importance of the national reconciliation policy, either in the fate of Afghanistan or the world in general. However, I can surely say that national reconciliation has now become the practical method for settling regional conflicts. Regional conflicts cause serious dangers to mankind in this atomic era. Kampuchea and Nicaragua have also opted for this method.

I can claim that we were the first to start this policy, which is an answer to the necessity for new initiatives and new political thoughts in our time. Our great and peace-loving neighbor, India, has expressed its categorical and undeviated support for the people of Afghanistan and our national reconciliation policy.

We cordially welcome the untiring endeavors of the Government of India in helping to politically settle the situation around Afghanistan and to practically implement the national reconciliation policy and the urgent resolution of the problem around Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Questions from an ANC representative: 1. What are the most important socioeconomic characteristics of Afghanistan; 2. What are the prospects for the national question?

[Najibullah] Afghanistan is an Islamic and multinationality country which has an ancient culture. The most important characteristic of our country is a multibasis and multistrata economy. There are traditional social-political forms in our country and we vehemently adhere to them. I mean that we have buttressed traditional fundamental norms with democratic norms; and, without doubt, these traditions have deep historic roots in our country.

Our revolution supports these traditions, which play an important role in the social and political life of Afghan society. The Afghanistan constitution has declared the equality of rights of all nationalities and tribes of Afghanistan and guarantees these rights. Specific programs are being undertaken to ensure the economic development of nationalities and tribes in line with their national and cultural characteristics, and action is being taken to ensure self-administration by the tribes and nationalities.

[Moderator] Questions from AFGHANISTAN TODAY, Palestinian delegation, Cuban, Greek, and Cypriot reporters:

How do you assess the present situation at the Geneva talks. Can Pakistani public opinion force the Pakistani side to sign the agreements? Do you think there is a difference between the Pakistani and U.S. stands? If there is a difference, how does this affect Geneva talks?

[Najibullah] The famous declarations of 9 February 1988 and 17 March 1988, by the Republic of Afghanistan and the USSR, were another important step in the Geneva talks which paved the way for the agreements to be signed immediately. Unfortunately, if the agreements have not been signed so far, it is because of the irrational and illegal proposals put forward by the United States and Pakistan.

These proposals are: The cessation of USSR military assistance to Afghanistan; the establishment of a transitional government in Afghanistan; and the question of the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. All of them are outside the Geneva talks agenda, and this demand is against and contradicts international law. We insist that they were not part of the Geneva talks, and they are not. Broad circles in Pakistan—that is, peace-loving society in Pakistan—insist on removing these artificial obstacles. Almost all opposition parties as well as this country's toilers and trade unions request that the Government of Pakistan sign the Geneva agreements.

It is now up to the government in Islamabad. If Islamabad responds positively to the requests of its people and demonstrates high political responsibility, these agreements can be signed now or tomorrow. Concerning differences between Pakistan and the United States, I would like to say that if there are differences between them they cannot play a determining role in the Geneva talks today. So far, we have only noticed a joint stand which is placing obstacles in the way of solving the situation around Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Question from George Woodheim, representative of the U.S. Peace Council: Has the time not arrived to tell the truth about the Afghan revolution, for it to be told to U.S. public opinion?

[Najibullah] Yes, the time has arrived. But how can a U.S. journalist think about it?

[Moderator] Question from (Barbara Fletcher), member of a British trade union: Mr President, can you explain the role of the British Government in relation to the issue of Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] As is clear, Blowpipe missiles are made in England. These missiles are exploding at this very moment in the blue skies of Afghanistan against civil and civil aviation targets.

[Moderator] Question from AKSARIAT, publication organ of Feda'i-ye Khalq of Iran: Are there any changes in Iran's attitude toward Afghanisan? What are Iran's relations with the process of national reconciliation in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] Unfortunately, we cannot say that Iran has changed its stand toward the Republic of Afghanistan. Despite our repeated invitations, the Iranian Government still does not want to participate in the Geneva talks. And there is no evidence that Iran will support the Geneva agreements. Iran's attitude toward national reconciliation is such that our compatriots still cannot freely cross the border in order to return home.

[Moderator] Question from the reporter of SUKI ASAHI of Japan: What is your opinion about communism and socialism? We outsiders believe that there has been a change in your claims in comparison with what you said at the beginning of the April Revolution.

[Najibullah] The PDPA is not a communist party, and our revolution is not a socialist revolution. The April Revolution is a national and democratic revolution. I think you know that there are differences in this respect. The aims of our revolution thus remain unchanged, but the times have brought changes to the timespan and forms of fulfilling this revolution. We have made efforts to act seriously in accordance with objective realities in our society, taking into account the historical conditions and the characteristics of our society's development.

[Moderator] Questions by [name indistinct], deputy editor of the Indonesian [name indistinct] daily: I think the solution of regional problems is based on national reconciliation. Are you confident that the people of Afghanistan will accept national reconciliation very soon? What are Afghan-Indonesian relations like, and what sort of relations should be established?

[Najibullah] The people of Afghanistan have accepted national reconciliation. They have not seen and do not know an alternative for peace. However, the most important fact is that international conditions should be created as soon as possible so that the Afghans can achieve their national reconciliation.

In connection with Afghan-Indonesian relations, relations between Afghanistan and Indonesia stem in particular from the time when Afghanistan and Indonesia were among the founding members of the Nonaligned Movement. We do not see any obstacles to our relations with Indonesia, and very soon an authorized delegation will visit the Republic of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Question by the editor of the SOUTH LONDON magazine: Please talk about the PDPA's gains in the past 10 years. What are the obstacles to progressive gains?

[Najibullah] We will soon be marking the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution, and will then speak in detail about its gains during the 10 years. However, we can say briefly that many things have been achieved in the 10 years and we can squarely meet the eyes of our people. The economy of the country has been revived, and all conditions have developed. Thousands of peasants have received land.

We have succeeded in solving various social problems. An increase in payments and other privileges for the people have taken place. Housing, hospitals, clinics, and other facilities are consistently expanding in the country. However, many problems remain before us in our drive for progress and development. I mean the backward economy of the country, the people's illiteracy, the newness and complicated nature of the tasks at hand, and, before everything as a whole, the main reason for the slowness of growth and progress is the undeclared war against our country and the people of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Another question from the same magazine: Is it possible to reach an accord between the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran?

[Najibullah] I believe there is no discord between the Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan. Nor is there any discord over who they should fight. Like all the Afghan people, they are trying to establish peace in their land. As for the disagreements, it should be said that they are between the leaderships of the opposition groups in these two countries. Such disagreements not only do exist, but are very strong. Even the political (?stands) of these groups are discordant, in the way of the amount and sources of their military, financial, and other assistance differ.

[Moderator] Another question by the SOUTH LONDON magazine: Do you expect foreign assistance for the revival of Afghanistan?

[Najbullah] The Afghan economy has an open style and is typified by broad participation in international economic relations. It is sufficient to say that the economic turnover of foreign goods constitutes a great percentage of the country's gross national product. The international goods market and the markets of their capital are factors that could speed up the economic growth of our country.

Our economic policy emanates from the need for maximum utilization of foreign factors in speeding up the economic development of the country. Last year we approved the law on foreign investment. This created an authoritative law on foreign investment activity in our country on both the private and state levels. However, we will never agree that foreign investment should be active at the expense of our national interests and our national sovereignty.

[Moderator] Question by Mostafa Danesh from the FRG: Your state has many times protested to the FRG over that country's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Could you specify this interference? What role can the FRG play in solving the situation around Afghanistan and in successfully concluding the Geneva talks?

[Najibullah] With regret, the FRG, along with other NATO countries, has chosen a hostile anti-Afghan stand and, now as well as before, regularly supplies military equipment to the armed opposition groups. Great financial assistance has been officially allocated in the state budgets.

As long as foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan continues, it will be meaningless to speak about a positive role for the FRG in solving the question of the situation around Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Question by [name indistinct] of the FRG's anti-imperialist solidarity committee: Does any contact exist with the former king [words indistinct] to be proposed?

[Najibullah] The process of national reconciliation has opened the way to all Afghans without consideration of their political views, their religious views, or their social position. It is obvious that the former king has links with his former country. However, the question of which Afghan would occupy which post in the future government will be settled around the table at negotiations for the formation of the coalition government.

[Moderator] The chairman of African National Congress, the group of Bulgarian journalists, and the Latin American delegation have asked questions about the socioeconomic characteristics of Afghanistan, the present economic situation in the country, and the prospects for the solution of the socioeconomic problems under national reconciliation. Please express your views in this regard.

[Najibullah] Although this question already has been answered in part, I would like to say that Afghanistan is a country with a developing economy and its major historic task is the elimination of economic backwardness and the growth of effective production forces and the maintenance of a suitable standard of a material and moral living for the people.

I would like to point out that the fulfillment of these tasks does not represent the protection of certain strata or a separate social class. The entire society should share an interest in such growth. No class or social level can remain apart from participation in its solution. Also, they can and are participating in all aspects, and the existing forms of property are expanding in economic growth and the struggle against backwardness. These characteristics have been enshrined in our constitution.

It is these characteristics in particular that constitute a strong base for a coalition administration and for the creation and growth of a multiparty system. We try to link the process of national reconciliation with objective economic development. Obviously, the undeclared war disrupts our economic growth. This war destroys production forces, directs material and financial resources to war purposes, and inflicts great damage on our human resources.

However, despite all this, our economic situation is stable. In addition, in the phase of implementing the policy of national reconciliation, we were able to bring considerable dynamism into our economic life. For example, in the past year more than 170 orders for private investment from private investors have been put forward, and 50 private projects have been built through the utilization of the credits from the Soviet Union for the growth of the private sector of economy. Measures toward expanding material and financial assistance to the peasants and artisans are being realized. The traders of our country, by utilizing their capital, in fact cost a vote for the policy of national reconciliation.

[Moderator] Question by the newspaper HEWAD: Please give some information about Pakistani and Iranian attitude toward the return of refugees.

[Najibullah] Pakistani circles and the heads of various groups have been hurt by the refugees' desire to return and have taken urgent action to block the return of the refugees. Administrators of Punjab Province in Pakistan have issued instructions to officials to restrict the movement of refugees in the province; and restrictions have been imposed on their movements outside their camps. Bank managers have been instructed to give only a small amount of money to refugees after special branch clearance. They are also prohibited to transfer money abroad.

Joint Pakistani Army and Afghan armed opposition group patrols have placed the roads leading to the Republic of Afghanistan under strict control. The returning refugees they capture are being beaten, insulted, and abused. Some of them are being killed and their belongings confiscated, and then they are being sent back to refugee camps.

In Iran, refugees who attempt to return to this country are being arrested by the Revolutionary Guards. Their money and valuables are confiscated and they are sent back to their place of abode in Iran, where they are delivered to the armed extremist groups. Those who do not accept this are sent to hard labor camps. Pakistani and Iranian circles and irreconceivable extremists, do not allow refugees to return for fear of losing their popular bases and financial resources.

[Moderator] Question by the representative of New Zealand: How do you assess the situation on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border?

[Najibullah] Pashtuns live on either side of the Afghan-Pakistan border, where traditional and kinship relations have existed among them since ancient times. No government has ever been able to disrupt these relations. In difficult times, they defend one another's interests and help one another. It has always been like this and will continue to be so. We have no intention to break these traditional relations.

[Moderator] Question by the representative of Japan: When did civil war start in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] It is apparent that every revolution has its counterrevolution. Those who suffered losses rose against revolutionary sovereignty. A number of them escaped abroad, where they were armed by the reactionaries of the region and started to interfere in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Another question by the representative of Japan: How do you assess the existence of the limited units in Afghanistan?

[Najibullah] Soviet forces at a certain time assisted us with the security of industrial and economic establishments, highways, and social establishments. But we should say and say clearly that the Soviet forces established the strategic balance in a way which helped us to defend and safeguard the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan are grateful for the peace-creating activity of the Soviet forces.

[Moderator] We have another question from the representative of Japan: Will the limited units of the Soviet Union withdraw if the Geneva talks do not yield results?

[Najibullah] We are trying to have the Geneva talks signed. But we expect the same from the side of Pakistan as well. In connection with the withdrawal of Soviet forces to their peace-loving country, we see it as our internationalist duty to create all necessary conditions for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces to their country. But if the Geneva talks are not signed, on the basis of bilateral agreement we will decide on the timespan and extent of the withdrawal, not on the basis of multilateral agreements—that is, the Geneva talks.

[Moderator] Question by the representative from England: Will the stationing of UN forces along the borders of Pakistan and Afghanistan help create a peaceful situation?

[Najibullah] The stability of the situation around Afghanistan is directly related to the signing of the Geneva agreements, in which the guarantor countries will play a meritorious role. The Afghan Armed Forces are capable of ensuring the security of the country if national reconciliation is implemented, and if there is noninterference from outside; I repeat: on the condition of the cessation of foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

[Moderator] Questions by the representatives of Greece and Cyprus: How do you assess the future of Afghanistan? Are you sure that after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces from your country, counterrevolutionaries will not start an offensive against the progressives in your country in order to settle accounts? What steps are being taken by your government to prevent such a situation?

[Najibullah] We foresee a peaceful future for our country. For this reason, we declared the policy of national reconciliation. And the results of the past year have made us utterly confident in this matter. And I insist that the cessation of foreign interference will help with this process.

[Moderator] Question by the representative of Bulgaria in relation to the withdrawal of the limited contingent of the Soviet Union: Can the Afghan Army defend the achievements of the revolution?

[Najibullah] As I said before, the Soviet forces came to Afghanistan at the invitation of the lawful Government of Afghanistan in line with Article 51 of the UN Charter to prevent foreign interference and to guarantee the independence of Afghanistan. We will arrange all conditions so that they can return to their country. As I said, our Army, which has about 400,000 members, can defend the achievements of the revolution, provided foreign interference in our internal affairs ceases.

[Moderator] Question by the editor of SOUTH LONDON magazine of England: Will the PDPA lead the government or will it participate in the government?

[Najibullah] Has it not been made clear to you yet that the PDPA never stipulated nor does it stipulate that it must lead the coalition government? It wants to participate in this government through its representatives, like other parties.

[Moderator] Esteemed Mr President, you have answered all of the written questions from the delegations and the press. We hope you will allow me to suggest that if they have more questions, they can ask them orally now.

[Najibullah] If there are any questions that the respected journalists or friends want to ask, we are at their disposal. [pauses] There are no questions? [applause]

AAPSO Conference Issues Communique

LD030848 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 2 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul, March 31 BAKHTAR—"We, the representatives of fifty countries and fifteen international organisations, gathered here in Kabul, the capital of the Republic of Afghanistan, are addressing the world public with an urgent appeal to strengthen the struggle for rapid and just settlement of all regional conflicts", says the communique issued by the international AAPSO conference held from March 29-31 here.

It says, we can no longer tolerate the bloodshed in Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Kampuchea, the Middle East, southern Africa, the Gulf or elsewhere. The regional conflicts are taking an ever-increasing toll of human life and destroying enormous material resources. They disrupt the efforts of the developing countries to resolve their most urgent complex social and economic problems.

These conflicts are dangerous not just in themselves but because they provide excuses for imperialist interference in various regions. They endanger not only the peoples directly involved, but also mankind as a whole. They threaten the prospects of a durable peace on this planet.

One of the most dangerous conflicts of this kind is the nine year old undeclared war against the people of Afghanistan. After years of efforts a change in the situation has been brought about, thanks to the policy of national reconciliation pursued by the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan.

The participants expressed their full support for the constructive and flexible stand of the Afghan side at the ongoing Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan, conducted by the special envoy of the United Nations Secretary general, Diego Cordovez.

While fully appreciating the recent statements of President Najibullah and general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, Mikhail Gorbachev, the participants are of the view that the concrete and acceptable ideas contained in the statements paved the way for a successful conclusion of the Geneva talks.

The participants being fully convinced that the signing of the Geneva agreement would serve cause of peace and security in this volatile region of the world call upon the other side to demonstrate political realism and goodwill and not to create artificial obstacles which would sabotage the talks and the signing of the agreed upon document at the last moment.

The participants warmly welcome the creative, constructive initiative of the Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea on the policy of national reconciliation and the settlement of the Kampuchean problem by peaceful means.

The participants warmly welcome the initial results of the meetings between His Excellency Mr Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, and Prince Norodom Sihanouk to solve the Kampuchean problem by the Kampuchean people themselves through national reconciliation aimed at stopping the bloodshed and all foreign interferences. They are hopeful that the talks will continue to a successful end.

The conference fully supports the peaceful settlement of conflicts between Laos and Thailand on the basis of the existing treaty between the two countries.

The participants express their deep concern over the increasingly aggravating situation around the Truong Sa Archipelago in the East Sea when Vietnamese freighters were attacked in their territorial water. They warmly welcome the constructive, goodwill proposals made by the Govt of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam that Vietnam and China should hold talks to solve differences concerning the Truong Sa Archipelago and the disputes over their common border and Hoang Sa Archipelago and that in the meantime both sides commit themselves not to use force to settle disputes.

Expressing deep concern over the worsening situation in the Korean Peninsula, the conference supports the policy for national reunification and peace proposals including the proposal for founding a democratic confederal republic of Korea and the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference put forward by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to ease tension and promote national reconciliation and unity.

Denouncing the "Team Spirit 88" joint military exercises being staged by the United States and the South Korean authorities with the mobilization of large armed forces over 200,000 strong and modern military equipments as a war rehearsal aggrevating tension in Korea and harassing peace on the Korean Peninsula and the world, the participants demand that they discontinue them at once and withdraw the U.S. Army and all the nuclear weapons immediately from South Korea.

We express our deep concern about the escalation of the disastrous Iran-Iraq war and demand an immediate halt to missile attacks and bombardments of the civilian areas to avoid further massacre of innocent and defenceless people, and call for an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war in accordance with Resolution No 598 of the UN Security Council and withdrawal of foreign warships from the Gulf. We believe that the war is

detrimental to the interest of the peoples of Iran and Iraq and is a serious threat to the peace of the region and the world. imperialism and reaction are the only beneficiaries of this war.

The conference condemns the Israeli expansionism and aggressive designs against the Arab peoples and expresses serious concern over the growing collaboration between Zionist Israeli rulers and the South African apartheid regime.

The participants fully support the popular uprising of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and severely condemn the bloody repressive activities of the Zionist against the population.

The participants support the struggle of Syria against Israeli Zionism. They condemn the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights which is an attempt to annex this part of Syria. They support totally the struggle of the people in the Golan Heights to preserve their Syrian Arab identity and to put an end to the occupation.

The conference supports the Lebanese national resistance against Israeli occupation and repression in South Lebanon and support the implementation of Resolution 450,508 and 509 of the UN Security Council of the immediate, total and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from Lebanon and on the safeguarding of the national sovereignty, integrity and unity of Lebanon, and support a peaceful solution to the Lebanese internal conflict.

A just and global solution to the Middle East question requires the holding of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations in which all parties concerned in the conflict, including the PLO, the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council must participate.

The guiding principles of this conference should constitute first the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all Arab occupied territories and the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people including their right to set up their own national independent state.

The conference fully supports the struggle of the people of Cyprus for a just and viable solution to the Cyprus problem. This solution must come within the framework of UN resolutions securing the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and demilitarization of that republic.

This conference has discussed the Central American conflicts, the most explosive of which has raged in Nicaragua. The Nicaraguan Govt has made great efforts to bring peace to this region, as prescribed by the Esquipulas II agreements, as well as by the contents of the San Jose meeting and the Sapoa cease-fire pact. These efforts of Nicaragua are effective steps towards a peaceful solution to this conflict.

We appeal to all governments and peoples of the world to support all initiatives aimed at halting the war against Nicaragua. We also urge the United States Congress to reject any more funds for the dirty war against people who are seeking only to rebuild their country, at the same time we call for the elimination of all other obstacles to the peace process being advocated by Nicaragua in other countries of this region.

We also express our respect for the Panamanian people's right to choose their own authorities without any foreign interference.

The conference also takes note of the illegal occupation of Malvinas Islands which historically and geographically belongs to the Republic of Argentina. Hence, the conference insists on the observance of the United Nations' declaration adopted on October 27, 1986.

Conference noted that the root cause of the racial and national [word indistinct] of violence and aggression in Namibia, South Africa, and the whole subcontinent of Africa is the apartheid system founded on white minority domination and expansionism. Judging from the intrasigenece of the Pretoria rulers, the only solution is the eradication of the apartheid system.

Conference calls upon the international community to step up its support for the liberation struggles waged by the oppressed vanguard organisations—SWAPO and the ANC. We also call for the imposition of comprehensive and mandatory sanctions against the Pretoria regime.

Conference calls for the implementation of the UN Resolution No 435 of 1978 by South Africa for the independence of Namibia.

Conference also calls for the maximum mobilisation of the international community for organising all possible political and material assistance for the frontline states that are victims of economic and military aggression by apartheid South Africa.

Conference condemn the armed aggression against Angola, Mozambique and other frontline states by South Africa.

At the same time confernece fully supports the initiatives undertaken by the People's Republic of Angola to find a peaceful political settlement to the ongoing conflict.

The conference supports the Sahrawi people's struggle for national independence being waged under the leadership of the Polisario Front.

The participants believe that the world public must play an important role in paving the way for ending all regional and international conflicts. They resolutely support all liberation movements seeking to eliminate colonial and racial domination. They feel that national and regional reconciliation, taking shape in different corners of the globe, if successful, could lead to the solution of some of the outstanding regional disputes. They are of the view that a new way of thinking is necessary for evolving a nuclear-weapons free and non-violent world.

The participants expressed their sincere gratitude and thanks to the government and people, to the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan for their warm hospitality and reception.

Bangladesh

Government Denies Supporting Tripura Insurgents

BK071319 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Bangladesh has emphatically said that everything possible is being done for the early return of the Chakma refugees from the other side of the border.

Commenting on a reported statement by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi that no concrete steps have been taken by the Bangladesh Government to take back the refugees from the Indian state of Tripura, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said everything possible had been done to facilitate the return of the refugees. Many steps have been taken, and are also being undertaken, not only for the return of these people to their homes, but also to ensure that the tribal people in the Chittagong hill tracts live in peace with their ethnic, religious, and cultural identity.

The statement of the foreign minister was briefed to the newsmen in Dhaka today by the foreign secretary, Nazrul Islam. In his statement, Mr Chowdhury made it clear that the government was also taking measures to promote the cause of tribal people in all possible ways.

Mr Chowdhury also gave an account of the performances of the high-level national committee set up by the government on the tribal people of the Chittagong hill tracts and said far-reaching steps had already been undertaken in the region.

Replying to different questions of the newsmen, Foreign Secretary Nazrul Islam said the steps taken by the government bore enough testimony that we are more than keen to get back our people in our country. Referring to the repatriation of Chakma refugees, he said it was a bilateral issue between Bangladesh and India.

Replying to Indian allegations of Bangladesh assistance to the insurgents in Tripura, the foreign secretary once again made it clear that there was no truth in such allegations. He said we are committed to bilateral cooperation in combating cross-border insurgency and we stand by our commitments.

Referring to reported statements by new Tripura Chief Minister S.L. Majumder that Bangladesh had of late allegedly admitted the existence of TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] activists' camps on its soil, Mr Islam clearly stated Bangladesh has no knowledge of any such camp in the country. He commented it could be a figment of imagination.

India

Lok Sabha Discusses Punjab Situation

Government Criticized

BK071616 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The Lok Sabha today had a special discussion on the situation in Punjab, lasting several hours. The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, will reply to the debate tomorrow.

Initiating the debate, Mr Saifuddin Chowdhury, CPI-M, criticized the government for releasing the Sikh head priests and said this has only emboldened the terrorists. He accused the government of following a policy of surrender and appeasement toward the extremists and hardcore elements in Punjab. He called for a secular and democratic initiative to solve the problem. He wanted arms licenses be given to the people of the affected areas for their safety.

Members from all sides expressed serious concern over the deteriorating situation in Punjab and charged Pakistan with aiding and abetting the terrorists in the state. They urged the government to take up the matter with Islamabad at the highest level and give a stern warning to Pakistan and its instigators that India will not tolerate attempts to destabilize her.

They said the situation has become more complicated with terrorists using sophisticated arms, including rockets smuggled from across the border. They suggested sealing of the border sentry posts set up at close quarters and providing security forces with proper firearms. They condemned the killing of innocent people, be it from any community.

Opposition members charged the government with lack of political will to tackle the situation despite vast powers at its command. They, however, criticized the emergency powers acquired by government through the Constitution's 59th Amendment. They urged the government not to use the Punjab situation for partisan ends.

Refuting the allegation, ruling party members regretted that instead of offering constructive suggestions, the opposition is trying to derive political mileage out of it. They stoutly defended the Constitution amendment and said the emergency provisions will be used in Punjab only if the situation so warranted.

Some opposition members called for an all-party conference to find a political solution. Agreeing with this, Congress-I members said the Akali leadership should come forward to tackle the problem.

Both the ruling and opposition members called for mobilizing the people against extremism, as it alone will isolate the terrorists. A ruling party member said that by aiding and abetting terrorists in Punjab, Pakistan has waged an undeclared war on India and wanted recalling our ambassador from there.

An opposition member said if India has conclusive evidence of Pakistan's hand behind terrorist activities in Punjab, it must come out with a specific move to deal with it.

Home Minister Responds

BK080912 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, told the Lok Sabha today that there is evidence of involvement of Pakistan in aiding and abetting terrorists in Punjab.

Replying to the special discussion, he said there is proof to show that Pakistan has been allowing the use of its territory for training of terrorists. He said not only Pakistan, but there are other countries also helping the terrorists. Leaders of these terrorists are also allowed by Pakistan to use its territory for providing material support to terrorists. He said India proposes to take up the matter with Pakistan at the highest level.

The home minister announced that the government has evolved a 3-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of terrorism in Punjab. The country's border along Punjab, Jammu, and Kashmir, and Rajasthan will be strengthened through effective policing and patrolling. The security forces are being supplied with sophisticated equipment to counter the effect of weapons being used by terrorists.

He said the third strategy relates to political mobilization in the state in which all political parties should extend their cooperation.

The home minister said the basic problem in Punjab is one of separatism, and terrorism is a method being used to achieve it. The forces favoring separatism are getting support both from within and outside the country.

Mr Buta Singh declared that there can never be any talks with elements indulging in killing of innocent people in Punjab. He congratulated the people of Punjab for rejecting such forces and putting up a united front against them.

Iran

Hijacking Situation Continues at Mashhad

Kuwait Objects to Departure

LD071631 Kuwait KUNA in English 1610 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 7 (KUNA)—An official Foreign Ministry source stated here tonight that the Iranian charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Ministry following reports that the hijacked Kuwaiti plane was refuelled at the request of the hijackers.

The source added to KUNA that the Iranian diplomat was informed of the minister of state for foreign affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi of Kuwait's position on the reported Iranian Government's intention to meet demands of the hijackers of the Kuwaiti aircraft to refuel and leave Mashhad airport.

The diplomat was informed that while Kuwait appreciates efforts exerted by the Iranian officials to secure release of the hostages and the hijacked plane it holds Iran fully responsible for tackling the situation in accordance with international laws, norms and resolutions which stipulate that Iran must obtain clear approval from Kuwait, owner of the plane in question and the country to which remaining hostages belong.

Hence, Kuwait reaffirms its objection to any step to allow the plane to leave Mashhad airport.

In the meantime, Kuwait hopes that efforts continue to be made to end the hijacking and highly appreciates cooperation of the Iranians regarding this important and serious issue.

Freed Group To Fly to Kuwait

LD071635 Kuwait KUNA in English 1553 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] [City indistinct] April 7 (KUNA)—Official sources said here Thursday that a special Kuwaiti airplane will return to Kuwait tonight with a group of passengers who have been released by hijackers of "Jabriah" [as received] in the last two days.

The officials told KUNA that the special plane will leave Mashhad to Kuwait in the next two hours.

The hijackers of the Kuwait Airways Corporation airliner released 57 passengers on stages, the last of which consisted of 32 people.

Kuwaiti Minister Lauds Iran

LD071659 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 7, IRNA—Kuwait's Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd 'Abdallah al-Sabah sent a message to Premier Hoseyn Musavi, thanking the Islamic Republic's efforts for securing the release of several passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner.

In his message, the Kuwaiti official lauding the Islamic Republic authorities' efforts towards resolving the hijacking issue, termed them "satisfactory and extensive".

The Kuwaiti premier said the current efforts of Iranian officials for freeing the passengers and the plane have borne results.

He called on the Islamic Republic to prevent the hijacked airfort from refuelling and taking off for another destination.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent, wishing for Iranian officials' further cooperation, pleaded the Islamic Republic to help resolve the issue.

But the unidentified Arabic-speaking gunmen, whose main demand is the release of 17 Muslims from Kuwaiti jails, have threatened to take off for an undisclosed destination if the Kuwaiti Government refuses to meet their demands. Passengers still being held hostage include mostly Kuwaiti nationals, among them some close relatives of the Kuwaiti shaykh's family.

The jumbo 747 was hijacked on its way to Kuwait from Bangkok early Tuesday. Some 57 passengers and crewmembers have so far been released by the hijackers following the Iranian officials' humanitarian pleas.

The Islamic Republic has been among the countries which condemned hijacking at the session of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers meet in Sanaa in 1984.

Iran Agrees to Refueling

LD071306 Tehran IRNA in English 1304 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—Iranian officials stationed at the airport here have finally agreed to refuel the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner after the hijackers' insistence and following their shootings at the security guards.

The hijackers had threatened that they would take off with the little fuel they had if they were not provided with fuel.

Refueling Begins

LD071337 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—Following agreement of Iranian officials to get the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner refueled the airport technicians started refueling the plane at 15:45 hours local time (12:15 GMT) Thursday.

It takes nearly two hours to refuel the hijacked Kuwaiti Boeing 747 airliner.

The hijackers are still insisting that the passenger plane should take off as soon as possible for a yet unknown destination.

'Collaborators' Arrested

JN071513 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 6 Apr 88 p 1

[by Lima al-Khalafawi]

[Text] ARAB TIMES has learnt that four of the collaborators of the hijackers were arrested in Bangkok and have been identified as members of the Hizballah. They are being questioned.

Aviation sources in Kuwait said Kuwait Airways flights on the Kuwait-Bangkok route, unlike many of the airline's other flights, did not carry armed security guards as security at Bangkok airport was considered adequate.

In December 1984, four men seeking the release of the 17 Arabs hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner to Tehran and shot dead two American passengers before Iranian security guards stormed the plane and seized them. Their fate has not been revealed.

Spare Parts Requested

LD071731 Tehran IRNA in English 1717 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 7, IRNA—According to last reports the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner is being refuelled and technicians at this north-eastern city are repairing the plane on the basis of a request by the pilot and the flight engineer of the jumbo 747.

The hijackers have cut all contacts with the control tower but the pilot and the flight engineer of the Kuwaiti plane are in contact with airport authorities. They are requesting necessary spare parts which means they may be planning to take off for another destination since the Kuwaiti Government has not yet met the hijackers' demand for the release of 17 jailed Muslims.

Iranian technicians estimate that whatever the pilot and the flight engineer have requested will suffice for a week-long flight.

Iranian security guards are still keeping a wary eye on the hijacked plane, and the obstacles around aircraft have not yet been removed.

The Iranian officials are still busy trying to find a peaceful solution to the whole issue and help free the rest of the passengers which among others include several members of the Kuwaiti shaykh's family.

Discussions are still underway between Iranian and the visiting Kuwaiti officials.

Some 57 passengers have so far been freed by the hijackers following the Iranian officials' humanitarian efforts.

Threats Force Refueling

LD071752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1643 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] One of our colleagues has sent a report on the continuing affair of the hijacked Kuwaiti airplane from Mashhad airport. Here is the report:

Around noon today, the 3d day of the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airplane, the hijackers asked for a full tank of fuel and a starter for starting the aircraft, and they sent a message in Arabic directly to the Kuwaiti authorities.

Deputy Prime Minister Mo'ayeri said in connection with the hijacking: Since the arrival of the Kuwaiti delegation, we, as intermediaries, have kept them informed about issues relating to the hijackers and the latest developments in that connection. But it would seem that they do not have the power to make on-the-spot decisions, they have not taken the matter seriously, and they do not value their nationals.

He again stressed the opposition of the Islamic Republic of Iran to hijacking and hostagetaking. He said: We will try to solve the problem without clashes.

At the same time, one of the hostages of the Al-Sabah family by the name of Fadl Khalid Jabir al-Sabah at 1245 today via the Mashhad airport control tower, sent a message to the Islamic Republic delegation [as heard] at the airport. In the message he said: We are very tired, and the hijackers are very serious in their determination. They want to blow up the aircraft. He added: They have asked for a full tank of fuel. Please put fuel at their disposal.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's delegation at Mashhad airport asked the hijackers to postpone their deadline which was to expire at 1200 in response to their contacts with a Kuwaiti official. When the deadline expired at 1200 today, at the request of Iranian authorities, it was extended until 1400.

At 1400 the hijackers asked for fuel and food. They said they wanted to leave the airport. They said: No attention has been given to our demands. The Iranian authorities announced: We do not intend to give you fuel. The hijackers said: We will fly with what little fuel we have. The hijackers also said: When we came to Mashhad, the aircraft was already prepared for an explosion and now, too, the possibility of an explosion exists. The hijackers then fired one shot, and then at short intervals fired a total of five shots out of the aircraft.

This information suggests that, as a result of the lack of response from Kuwaiti authorities to the effect that they will not accept the hijackers' demand and also as a result of the repeated threats of the hijackers, the Islamic Republic's authorities were forced, in order to save the passengers lives and the aircraft's crew, to give permission for the complete refuelling of the aircraft.

The latest report states: While the hijacked Kuwaiti plane has refuelled in Mashhad airport for the purpose of flying to an unknown destination, the Kuwaiti delegation stationed at Mashhad airport announced: Another Kuwaiti aircraft has left from Kuwait for Mashhad airport.

Refueling Continues

LD072004 Tehran in English to Europe 1950 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Latest reports about the hijacked Kuwaiti plane currently stranded in Mashhad airport indicate that at 1815 local time, the plane was still receiving fuel and, as requested by the pilot and technical engineers of the Kuwaiti plane, the technicians of the Islamic Republic Aviation are now busy removing the technical faults of the stationed plane.

Since 1600 local time, the plane hijackers have ceased all contact with control tower while only the pilot and technical engineers of the Kuwaiti plane are in contact with the airport's control tower.

The same report indicates that while contacts between the Islamic Republic of Iran's mission and Kuwaiti officials continue, the Iranian officials are making all efforts to free the plane's passengers and end the problem peacefully.

Meantime, 57 of the freed passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti plane left for Kuwait this evening with a special airplane.

Kuwait To Eschew 'Haggling'

LD071953 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1820 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Riyadh, 7 Apr (SPA)—'Abd al-Rahman al-Bakr, Kuwaiti ambassador to the Kingdom, stressed that his country is tackling the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner

at Mashhad Airport in northern Iran in a manner which will not affect the safety of the passengers and crew and which will not leave room for haggling by the plane's hijackers.

He explained that his country has sent a large delegation from the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry to take part in the negotiations with the plane's hijackers to hasten the hostages' release. He noted that there is cooperation between the Kuwaiti and Iranian authorities in a way appropriate to handling the matter.

'Abd al-Rahman al-Bakr said it became clear from the demands of the plane's hijackers that they want release of prisoners in Kuwaiti jails, prisoners who had a role in the Kuwaiti explosions which killed six people. He explained that those prisoners were given a fair trial and fair sentences. The ambassador stressed that his country totally and absolutely refuses to haggle over the Kuwaiti prisoners and exchange them for the hostages aboard the hijacked plane. He expressed the hope that the efforts of the Kuwaiti delegation and the Iranian officials will result in the safe release of the passengers and the return of the plane.

Hijackers Intend To Leave

LD072023 Tehran IRNA in English 2015 GMT 7 Apr 88

["Hijackers Say They Will Leave At Midnight"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 7, IRNA—Although the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner were told to wait for the results of the Kuwaiti Cabinet's emergency session, they said they do not trust such sessions and their outcomes.

"Prepare the pre-requisites of our flight until 24:00 hours (20:30 GMT) so that we could leave Mashhad airport," urged the hijackers in a message to Iranian officials.

The Kuwaiti jumbo jet was hijacked en route to Kuwait from Bangkok by yet unidentified Arabic-speaking gunmen. The hijackers want the release of 17 political prisoners jailed in Kuwait, a demand the Kuwaiti Government has rejected.

The hijackers have so far released some 57 passengers and crewmembers. But after the hijackers fired warning shots, Iran agreed to provide them with fuel. The hijackers had even threatened to take off with the little fuel they had. There are still obstacles on the runway.

Hijackers 'Determined To Leave'

LD072046 Tehran IRNA in English 2044 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 7, IRNA—In a radio conversation with the control tower of the Mashhad airport, the hijackers said they were determined to leave the airport for an undetermined destination in the midnight.

Iranian officials however have not yet allowed the hijacked plane to take off.

The Kuwaiti Government has been informed of the hijackers' decision but it has said it will study the issue. No word has been heard from Kuwait so far.

Tehran Television Report

NC072027 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Mashhad Airport on the continuation of the hijacking incident.

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] Dear viewers, this is Mashhad Airport. As you know, the hijackers of the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 airliner declared 1200 noon as the deadline for a favorable response from the Kuwaiti delegation, but when their demands were rejected, the hijackers announced that they wanted fuel and food as they wanted to depart from Mashhad Airport.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's team and the Kuwaiti delegation that was dispatched to Mashhad continued their efforts to persuade the hijackers to release the passengers and give themselves up by 1500 today. At about 1500 the hijackers, who had lost hope of having their demands met, announced that time was being wasted. First they fired one shot and then four more at the security personnel. They demanded food and fuel and adopted a more belligerent tone.

As you can see, the airplane is refueling [video shows airplane in background] and the hijackers intend to leave Mashhad Airport. At the same time, the efforts of the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials to calm the hijackers and persuade them to allow passengers to disembark are continuing, along with efforts to make the hijackers contact the Kuwaiti delegation directly to convey their message. However, the hijackers are very disappointed; they state that the Kuwaiti Government does not attach any importance to its citizens and they cannot wait at Mashhad Airport any longer. [end recording]

Dear viewers, our reporter at the Mashhad center sent us the latest reports on the hijacking incident moments ago. We draw your attention to this report:

[Begin telephone recording] [Announcer] Hello, Mashhad airport. Greetings.

[Reporter] Yes. Greetings to you.

[Announcer] Please give our viewers the latest information on the Kuwaiti hijacking incident.

[Reporter] Yes, certainly. Greetings to the esteemed viewers of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. I wish to inform them that now it is past 2030, the hijacked Kuwaiti plane has refueled with the intention of departing for an unknown destination, and the Kuwaiti delegation at Mashhad Airport has announced that another Kuwaiti airplane is flying from Kuwait to Mashhad.

According to the latest reports, the plane that is on its way to Mashhad from Kuwait will probably take the 57 released passengers to Kuwait. As a result of the talks and efforts exerted by the Islamic Republic of Iran's team, 32 passengers held hostage by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner were released at 0230 this morning and were immediately taken to a hotel in Mashhad to rest after a medical checkup in the airport lounge.

[Announcer] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Hijackers Extend Deadline

LD072212 Tehran IRNA in English 2210 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 7, IRNA—The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner have accepted a request by Iranian officials to extend their deadline for another 6 hours.

The hijackers had said they would leave at 20:30 GMT Thursday because the Kuwaiti Government had not responded positively to their demand to release 17 political prisoners in Kuwait.

The Iranian request for the extension came following contacts by Turkish and Pakistani prime ministers with their Iranian counterpart to provide an opportunity so that the two (Turgut Ozal and Mohammad Khan Junejo) could talk to Kuwait officials to possibily convince them to meet the hijackers' demand.

The Turkish prime minister had a telephone conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi Thursday in which he thanked the Islamic Republic for its humanitarian efforts in securing the release of more than half of the passengers of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner. They also discussed mutual relations.

Ozal also conveyed the appreciation of Kuwaiti officials and urged Musavi to put a peaceful end to the ordeal for humanitarian reasons.

In response, Musavi told Ozal that Iran was trying her best to end the issue without any unhappy event. "Of course you should know that our possibilities are limited and therefore we hope the Kuwaiti Government would understand our restrictions in the holy city of Mashhad and would fulfill its humanitarian duty in trying to bring the problem to a peaceful end," Musavi told Ozal.

In related news, Prime Minister Junejo of Pakistan sent a separate message to Musavi thanking him for Iran's efforts in ending the issue peacefully.

Former Hostages Leave

LD072233 Tehran IRNA in English 2230 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 7, IRNA—The 57 passengers released by the hijackers in two groups, were flown to Kuwait on a Kuwaiti plane at 22:10 GMT tonight. They were released following ceaseless efforts by the Iranian Prime Ministry delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali-Reza Mo'ayeri.

The freed passengers are 22 Britons, four Pakistanis, nine Thais, three Egyptians, one Filipino, one Palestinian, one Singaporian, two Irish, two Germans, three Syrians, three Austrians, one Sudanese, one south Yemenese, one Japanese, one Jordanian, one Lebanese and one from South Korea.

After their release, the passengers were received warmly and taken on a tour of this northeastern holy city to see the sights.

The 57 passengers, 33 men and 24 women were freed in two groups one day apart.

Mo'ayeri who has been negotiating with the hijackers since the Kuwaiti Boeing 747 plane was forced to land at the airport here Tuesday morning, saw off the released passengers. He expressed hope that Iranian officials could release other passengers still held by the hijackers.

He also said that the fate of other passengers was unknown because the hijackers have threatened to leave Mashhad Airport if given a negative response from the Kuwaiti Government to their demand for the release of 17 people jailed in the shaykhdom.

The deputy prime minister also presented flowers and souvenirs to all the passengers and wished them to leave Iran with good memories.

The hijacked Kuwaiti airliner is still parked at the runway with 55 passengers aboard. Although the plane was refueled this evening it has not yet been allowed to fly.

Velayati Urges Cooperation

LD072329 Tehran IRNA in English 2320 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a reply message to his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah Thursday expressed hope that Kuwait too would show its utmost cooperation alongside Iran's humanitarian efforts to resolve the issue of the hijacked airliner peacefully.

Velayati said that the Islamic Republic by employing rational methods has so far managed to secure the release of 57 passengers of the hijacked plane and also prevent the occurrence of any unfavorable incidents despite warnings by the hijackers that they might resort to violence.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister in his message to Velayati thanked the Islamic Republic for its help in freeing the 57 passengers and urged Tehran to help foil the hijackers' plans.

Former Hostages Arrive

LD080556 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The special Kuwaiti flight carrying 57 passengers of various nationalities who were released by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner returned to Kuwait at dawn today. KUNA reports the special flight stopped in Bahrain for refuelling.

The hijacked airliner is still at Mashhad airport.

Departure Requested Again

LD080652 Tehran IRNA in English 0646 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 8, IRNA—With the end of a deadline set by the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner, they again asked for a starter and a charger device in order to fly the plane for an unknown destination.

Last night, the hijackers extended their deadline for six hours upon an Iranian request after Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and Premier Mohammad Khan Junejo of Pakistan sent messages to their Iranian counterpart Hoseyn Musavi asking for another opportunity to negotiate with Kuwaiti officials.

Iran had requested a 10-hour extension but the hijacker had agreed with a 6-hour extension only.

Following the agreement of the hijackers to extend the deadline Thursday night, they disconnected their radio conversation with the control tower and switched off the plane's lights.

At 08:00 hours local time (04:30 GMT), the hijackers called on the control tower to allow them to fly.

Mediation by Turkey, Pakistan

LD080857 Tehran IRNA in English 0853 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 8, IRNA—In a contact with the control tower minutes ago (around noon), the hijackers said they were waiting for immediate results of the mediation efforts by Turkey and Pakistan.

They said they must be informed of the results of these talks immediately or else they would depart the airport shortly.

A spokesman for the Iranian Prime Ministry delegation told IRNA that despite pressures by the hijackers, Iran has invited them to be patient so that the outcome of the ongoing efforts would be successful.

2-Day Food Supply Requested

LD080917 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 8, IRNA—Hijackers of the Kuwaiti jumbo jet 747 have demanded Iranian officials to immediately remove obstacles in their way so that they could fly to an unknown destination.

The Arab-speaking hijackers have also asked for food for two days.

Iranian officials have not accepted this request and said they would give them only one portion of meal. They have also stressed that all the passengers must be freed.

Meanwhile, Iranian technicians at Mashhad airport have repaired the water supply system of the plane which had gone out of order.

'Critical and Tense' Situation

LD081018 Tehran IRNA in English 1013 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 8, IRNA—Captain of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner, in a contact with the control tower at 13:20 hours (09:50 GMT), on behalf of the hijackers requested Iranian officials to prepare the ground for the plane's take-off and remove obstacles in its way.

Otherwise, the captain warned, the lives of the passengers will be in danger.

Informed sources at the airport here told IRNA reporters that the situation inside the plane is critical and tense and that any moment an unexpected event may happen.

Kuwaiti Council Meets 8 Apr

LD081020 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, minister of state for cabinet affairs, has made the following statement:

The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting this morning at al-Sha'b Palace under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers, in which the Council studied the latest developments relating to the hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner that is now on the ground at Mashhad Airport in Iran.

The Council acquainted itself with the good efforts being made by the Iranian authorities with the hijackers to release the hostages and the airliner. The Council, while thanking officials in the Islamic Republic of Iran for the help they are providing in this regard, hopes that their efforts will be crowned with success in reaching a conclusion to this incident and in releasing the passengers and the airliner.

Captain Says Passenger Beaten

LD081025 Tehran IRNA in English 1021 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 8, IRNA—Following reports that the situation inside the hijacked Kuwaiti jumbo jet is critical, the control tower said at 13:30 hours (10:00 GMT) it had monitored a wailing voice, of a passenger or possibly a crew member.

The captain of the plane, when inquired about this, said that the hijackers have forced one of the passengers inside the cockpit and are beating him.

According to IRNA reporters, after this conversation, the connection with the plane has been cut and efforts by Iranian officials to reestablish contacts have failed so far.

Warning Shots Fired

LD081033 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 7GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 8, IRNA—At 13:35 hours (10:05 GMT),the hijackers pulled one of the male passengers out at the stairs of the plane and fired three warning shots into the air. The situation at the airport here is very tense and out of control so much so that anything may happen any moment.

Iranian officials have been working hard to bring the situation under control and at 12:50 (09:20 GMT) they agreed to put some mechanics and cleaners at the disposal of the hijackers.

Hijacker Throws Grenade

LD081058 Tehran IRNA in English 1056 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, April 8, IRNA—One of the hijackers threw a grenade outside the plane at 14:00 hours local time (10:30 GMT), warning the air port officials to remove obstacles in the way of the plane.

Following the hijackers' warning, the Iranian officials have agreed to remove the obstacles. The air port employees are now removing the barricades.

Military on 'Full Alert'

LD081109 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 8, IRNA—Following the firing of three warning shots by the hijackers, Iranian aviation officials pulled out the stairs at 13:40 (10:10 GMT).

A state of emergency has been declared at the Mashhad Airport with all Iranian military forces, policemen, rescue workers and fire fighters placed on full alert.

The hijackers are still insisting that obstacles in the way of the plane be removed or else one of the passengers will be killed. The hijackers have also threatened that the plane is at the point of explosion.

IRNA reporters believe that the hijackers are determined to leave Iran and that at least one life is high risk.

Iranian officials are endeavouring to prevent any bloodshed.

At 13:50 hours (10:20 GMT), the captain asked the control tower to be informed about the climate and the wind speed and provided with a map of Iran and its neighboring countries.

Iranian officials have told the hijackers that all the airports in : world will be closed to them. They have responded that the plane is ready to be blown up and that if the obstacles are not removed "you will be responsible for the consequences."

Plane Ready for Take Off

LD081110 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 8, IRNA—Following the removal of obstacles in the way of the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner at 14:05 hours local time (10:35 GMT), the plane is ready to take off with its first engine ignited.

Iranian officials have once again warned the hijackers that all airports throughout the world are closed to them and that they were responsible for the safety of the passengers and the crew members of the plane.

It however seems that the hijackers are determined to leave Iran and for this reason they have cut their contact with the control tower monitoring the captain.

In their latest contact, the hijackers have threatened to blow up the airliner as soon as they spot any suspicious activity on the part of Iranian officials, warning that they will fire at all suspicious people. They called on the airport guards to stay away from the jumbo jet.

Hijackers' Nationalities Listed

NC081120 Cairo MENA in English 1114 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 8 (MENA)—The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner, now sitting at Mashhad airport in Iran, total four in number, according to "AL-QABAS" of today. Three of them are Lebanese and one Bahraini and they carry forged passports, the paper elaborated.

The passports include two Iraqi ones, one Bahraini and the fourth Lebanese, the paper said.

It expressed doubts that some of the passengers were accomplices with the hijackers.

Plane Moves to Main Runway

LD081117 Tehran IRNA in English 1116 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mahshad, Khorasan Prov., April 8, IRNA—The Kuwaiti Boeing 747 airliner hijacked by unidentified gunmen and forced to land at the airport in this northeastern holy city, is ready to fly to an unknown destination after nearly 79 hours stay here.

The jumbo 747 plane moved towards the main runway at 14:13 hours local time (10:43 gmt) and entered it five minutes later.

The control tower of Mashhad Airport is monitoring the flight of the hijacked plane.

In their latest contact with the control tower, the hijackers asked to be permitted to fly.

Plane Takes Off

LD081130 Tehran IRNA in English 1126 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorasan Prov., April 8, IRNA—The hijacked Kuwaiti Boeing 747 airliner took off at 14:28 hours local time (10:58 GMT) Friday toward an unknown destination.

According to the latest reports, captain of the plane told the control tower by radio that he knew nothing about the next destination.

Before their departure, the hijackers radioed a message to the 'damned' emir of Kuwait, threatening that if he does not give a positive response to the hijackers' demand they would blow up the plane.

Egyptians Remain on Plane

NC081215 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Apr (MENA)—An official of Kuwaiti Airlines has told a MENA correspondent in Kuwait that none of the Egyptian passengers on board the hijacked Kuwaiti aircraft currently parked at the Iranian airport of Mashhad have been released.

The Egyptian passengers are Layla Nu'man 'Abdallah, Kamil Muhammad Rayhan, Sayyid Fathi al-Qatalah, Mabruk 'Abdallah al-'Abd, and Mahbub Sharif al-Badrawi. In addition, there is an Egypian passenger called 'Atiyah al-'Alayli who has a U.S. passport and a Palestinian woman carrying an Egyptian travel document.

The official reported that four of the Egyptian passengers are employed by the Cairo office of Kuwaiti Airlines and that they had been on a private vacation in Bangkok.

Beirut Possible Destination

NC081228 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] The hijacked Kuwaiti airliner left Mashhad airport this afternoon. The hijackers threatened to leave for an unknown destination in the absence of results from Turkish-Pakistani mediation efforts. They have beaten one of the passengers and thrown him out of the aircraft. They also fired a number of shots and threw a hand grenade, demanding that all obstacles on the tarmac be removed.

It has been reported that the airliner might be headed for Beirut airport.

Kuwait 'Holds Iran Responsible'

LD081308 Kuwait KUNA in English 1231 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Kuwait, April 8 (KUNA)—Kuwait confirmed here Friday that the hijacked Kuwaiti airliner has left Mashhad Airport in Iran to an unknown destination.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry told KUNA that Kuwait holds Iran responsible for any repercussions that would happen to the aircraft or the passengers on its board as Kuwait has not given a permission for Iranian authorities to allow the plane to leave the airport.

The source noted that the plane took off at 2:15 pm Kuwait time after Iranian authorities refuelled it.

While expressing Kuwait's "strong regret" over the behavior of the Iranian Government, the source stressed that the permission given for the hijackers to leave ignores Kuwait's clear position which was repeatedly relayed to the Iranian Government.

The source added that Kuwait had also repeatedly expressed appreciation for Iran's efforts to end this tragic incident.

With the latest development, the source concluded that Kuwait "can not but hold Iran responsible for the repercussions that might result from allowing the Kuwaiti aircraft to depart Mashhad Airport against the will of Kuwait to whom the passengers and the plane belong."

Khomeyni Receives Mobilization Forces Officials

LD071208 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Imam Khomeyni received this morning in Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran officials of the mobilization forces of central headquarters and of the districts of provinces and townships all over the country; a group of officials from the Sisters' Volunteer Unit; the commanders of the Guards Corps and district commanders from all over the country; and several Basijis of the Narmak Ahmadi Mosque [in western Tehran] accompanied by Mr Rahmani, official in charge of the Volunteer Unit of the Deprived.

The Qazvin mobilization forces choir sang a song in the presence of the imam. Then Mr Rahmani presented to the imam of the ummah a report on the early stages of the development of the volunteer movement; and the training of more than 5 million persons from various strata of the population aimed at realizing the objective of a 20-million-strong army; and on the extensive presence of volunteers at the war front; and the extensive program that has been drawn up for the departure of volunteers to the battlefronts of war and the readiness of various strata of the population to undergo military training. At the close of this meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the display of emotion of those present.

Commmentary on Chinese-Saudi Missile Deal

LD080616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0120 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Station commentary: "The Political Effects of the Chinese Missiles"]

[Text] Some politicians still believe modern and strategic weapons can change the political balance in various parts of the world. But this old theory lost its value and credibility long ago. In today's world even in Third World countries there are now power sources that can change the destiny of countries and political regions without using strategic weapons.

In circumstances when the Middle East and the Persian Gulf are experiencing one of the most critical periods in their history, many believe that the PRC's providing long range missiles for Saudi Arabia can change the strategic regional balance in favor of Arab reactionaries. Arab reactionaries have been placed in a position of weakness because of the intensification of the uprising by the Muslim Palestinians in the occupied territories and Iran's great military victories against Iraq.

In addition, with NATO forces in the Persian Gulf facing a dead-end situation, many of them have left the area; as a result, they, in effect, retreated before the powerful resistance by the people of Iran.

In these circumstances, providing the kind of weapon that can transform most of the Middle East countries into a target from Hejaz—and one that is even capable of taking nuclear warheads—could, in the opinion of some experts, tip the balance in favor of Arab reactionaries. This view's falsehood is clear since the weapon of power held by the progressive side in the region, the Islamic Republic of Iran, is stronger than anything presented by such missiles. Moreover, the revolutionaries of the region do not fear being made targets of these missiles.

It is also quite clear that there are innumerable political restrictions that will tie the hands of Al-Sa'ud in using these missiles, which have a range of 2,500 km. Political maneuvers by some Arab countries and the Islamic Conference in issuing a warning to the Zionist regime about its possible attack on Saudi Arabia's missile bases is itself a scenario with an ending which was clear long ago.

Today, political observers all think the Hejaz regime and the Tel Aviv government have no fundamental or strategic conflicts with each other, and both are considered to be the foundations of the West's overall policy in the Middle East. Therefore, the possibility of a confrontation between Saudi Arabia and Israel is completely nonexistent.

According to some reports, China has confirmed that it has sold medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia. But it has added that the missiles are nonnuclear, and the Saudis have promised to use them only defensively. These missiles are able to fire nuclear warheads at any target in the Middle East. But according to the analysis given, it seems as if these missiles will never threaten Israel, since the regime of Hejaz has so far showed that despite receiving complex equipment, such as AWACS, modern fighter planes, surface-to-air missiles, and other complicated weapons, it has never endangered the occupying Zionist regime.

This political game has thus continued; Shamir, the Zionist regime's prime minister, has said Israel and the United States are jointly trying to prevent the Saudis from putting their new Chinese missiles in position. Shamir has also denied comments made by his chief of staff about the possibility of Israel attacking these missiles.

In view of these circumstances, it is likely Saudi Arabia would not agree to dismantling the missiles and it seems that such moves, and providing the Hejaz government with such weapons, will only be in line with supporting the reactionary regimes of the region.

New Missile Nearly Ready for Production

LD071933 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Brigadier General Jalali, the defense minister, and Brigadier General Sattari, commander of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran, participated in this week's political roundtable on the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Second Network.

During the roundtable, Brig Gen Jalali said a missile with a range of over 130 km and constructed by the defense industries of our country was recently tested. It has completed its final testing stages and will go into mass production at the end of the current month [month ends 20 April]

Jalali noted that Iran has reached self-sufficiency in production of some light arms and small-caliber ammunition and that domestic production of large-caliber ammunition and artillery shells currently meets the demands of the Armed Forces. He then said: Activities in this direction have resulted in a saving of $3 billion. We have therefore increased our planning to produce all types of arms and ammunition.

Riyadh Warned on Activities in Oil Market

LD072011 Tehran IRNA in English 1816 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh today strongly criticized the Riyadh regime for its efforts to destablize the oil markets and warned it against jeopardizing the interests of oppressed nations and oil producing countries.

Aqazadeh told IRNA here that subversive moves in the oil markets are all masterminded by the U.S., a superpower which casts its sinister shadow in this vital sector mainly through the Hejaz regime.

The objective behind the recent developments in the oil markets which have resulted in the oil price slide over the past few weeks is a renewed bid to put pressure on Iran's economy and to force Tehran to accept the U.N. Security Council Resolution 589 on the Iraqi-imposed war, he said.

The oil minister said that these plots are exactly in line with other critical developments in the region such as the intensified Iraqi air and missile attacks on Iran's cities and imposition of arms embargo on the Islamic Republic.

The Hejaz regime and its allies have, since a long time ago, prevented the OPEC's Price Supervisory Committee from holding an extraordinary session, Aqazadeh said.

Aqazadeh, saying that the Islamic Republic is carefully watching the oil market and is well aware of all developments, noted Iran will decisively counter the problem at an appropriate time.

OPEC's Price Supervisory Committee, made up of Saudi Arabian, Venezuelan, Nigerian, Algerian and Indonesian oil ministers, will meet in Vienna on April 9 to study the oil price, he said.

The minister blamed the instability of oil amrkets on overproduction and disregard for the OPEC-assigned quotas by certain members of the organization.

The Islamic Republic proposed about three months ago to Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman who chairs the OPEC Conference that the organization's Price Supervisory Committee hold a session to check oil market instability, Aqazadeh said.

In the light of the current situation in the oil markets, Iran's proposal seems to have been a correct one although the committee is holding its session after quite a lengthy delay.

Oil Minister Aqazadeh warned that unless the Price Supervisory Committee decides to defuse current crisis by forcing the organization's members to be committed to OPEC approvals the market situation will remain unstable.

The Islamic Republic believes that the Riyadh regime's attempts to destabilize the oil markets are detrimental to the interests of oil producing countries and that Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazir under orders from the U.S. is resorting to the same scheming his predecessor Zaki Yamani did in 1986.

Aqazadeh once again warned the Hejaz regime not to sacrifice the interests of the oppressed nations for Washington's benefits because if so the 1986 oil crisis will be repeated.

Until the oil demands increase the OPEC members should control or limit their production ceiling in an effort to preserve the 18-dollar p/b price, concluded Aqazadeh.

Musavi Receives Pakistani Ministry Official

LD071235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Bashir Khan Baber, political under secretary of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs and special envoy of that country's Prime Minister, met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi this morning.

During this meeting, which was also attended by the deputy minister of foreign affairs, Baber conveyed to the prime minister a message from the Pakistani prime minister on the results of the Geneva talks on Afghanistan. He also informed the prime minister of latest reports on those negotiations.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani prime minister's special envoy referred to the Pakistani Government statement of yesterday condemning the use of chemical weapons and attacks on the cities. He described a film on chemical bombing, which had been placed at his disposal by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as extremely disturbing and inhuman.

Stressing the role of the Islamic Groups in the future of Afghanistan, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said: The problem of Afghanistan is of importance to all Muslims and the fate of that country is tied to that of Iran and Pakistan.

The prime minister added: the fact that the Soviet Union itself knew that the presence of its forces in Afghanistan was illegal and has stressed the need to withdraw from that country is a cause for satisfaction. But we hope to see one day the establishment of an Islamic and popular government in Afghanistan, strong enough to stand against the domination of global arrogance and to establish good relations with Islamic and neighboring countries.

Interior Minister Interviewed on Elections

NC072124 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Interview with Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami by unidentified reporter in Tehran on 7 April—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified reporter] I thank my colleague, dear viewers. As my colleague announced, Mr Mohtashami, the esteemed interior minister, has given us a few minutes of his time and has taken the trouble to come to the studio. Regarding the elections scheduled to take place tomorrow all over Iran with the participation of our Hezbollah compatriots, I request him to give some details.

[Mohtashami] [Passage omitted] The polls will open tomorrow at 0700 hours in 196 election constituencies. There will be about 30,000 ballot boxes so that the martyr-nurturing nation can vote for their representatives throughout the country by going to the polls and can elect their qualified representatives. At the same time as the Islamic Majlis elections, we have interim elections for the Council of Experts [Majlis-e Khobregan] in four provinces—Esfahan, Ilam, Khorasan, and Khuzestan—where ballot boxes have been prepared for the purpose. People can vote for the candidates in the Council of Experts interim elections at the same time.

I should add in this regard that 1,700 persons have been endorsed and are competing in this election campaign. Of these, our dear nation will elect 270. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] I wish to thank you once again, Mr Mohtashami, for honoring us with your presence in the studio and explaining the details in this regard.

Voting Begins in Third Majlis Election

LD080349 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Voting in the third elections of the Majlis began a few moments ago in 20,000 polling stations all over the country.

Khomeyni Votes

LD080512 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to a report just in: At 0800 today Imam Khomeyni cast his vote in the third Majlis elections at a polling station. According to our correspondent, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also cast his vote.

Montazeri Votes

LD080639 Tehran IRNA in English 0632 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The third Majlis (parliamentary) elections since the 1979 Islamic revolution, started throughout the country this morning. Ayatollah Hoseyni 'Ali Montazeri, the future leader of the Islamic Revolution cast his vote at Zainabiya Mosque in the holy city of Qom at 08:00 hours local time (04:30 GMT).

More than 1,600 Iranians are contesting 270 seats in the third parliamentary elections.

The elections are being held under circumstances that the country is under constant enemy missile and air attacks in a despearate move to discourage the Iranian people from attending polling stations.

Enemy attacks on civilian quarters in Tehran, Esfahan, and Qom (with missiles) as well as Hamedan and Bakhtaran (air raid) continued Thursday and early Friday inflicting some casualties and damage.

On the significance of this term of the Majlis elections, the leader of the Islamic revolution has said he would participate in the elections whatever the condition may be. He said this in reference to the escalation of the so-called war of the cities.

Missile Strikes, Ground Operations Continue

Communique No 3,165

LD071810 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombarded Baghdad's al-Dawrah refinery and the Khafaji military township near the Iraqi capital, in two daring sorties today, announced the Joint Staff Command Communique 3165.

Iranian jet-fighters also pounded enemy military and economic installations in Irbil, Qal'at Dizah, troop-concentration sites in Fakkeh and al-'Amarah operational region as well as the Kallar region in Iraq's Diyala Province during their combat missions Thursday morning and afternoon, it said. All fighters returned safely to bases after inflicting substantial damage and casualties on the enemy, added the military communique.

In the southern waters, continued the communique, Iranian naval forces intercepted 15 tankers and commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday but allowed them to proceed voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

Iranian Air Force planes effectively lent support to the Navy in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman by reconnoitering the situation of foreign vessels, it said.

On the battlefields, exchange of fire raged on between the Muslim combatants of Iran and Iraqi Ba'thist forces over Wednesday and Thursday, said the communique adding, Iranian artillery and mortar fire inflicted heavy damage and casualties on Iraqi positions and fortifications. The Muslim combatants also prevented Iraqi forces from landing troops in Anjirah operational theatre, it added.

The communique said long-range artillery units of the Army ground forces subjected economic and military centers of Irbil, Khanaqin, Basra, 'Ali al-Gharbi and Qal'at Dizah as well as oil installations of Banmil and Naft Khaneh to their heavy fire inflicting substantial damage and casualties.

Iraqi garrisons in Qasr and Sulaymaniyah including a police academy was shelled by Iran's long-range artillery fire and sustained casualties and damage.

Missile unit of the Army ground forces fired three medium-range missiles at industrial installations in Basra inflicting damage, it added.

The communique said three Iraqi patrol groups attempted to penetrate Iranian positions in Kalaleh, Sumar and Nahr 'Anbar but were forced to flee sustaining casualties.

Engineering activities of the enemy in Nahr 'Anbar and Chazabeh and movement of its vehicle columns in Kani Shaykh were brought to a halt by the Iranian Muslim combatants' heavy fire, concluded the communique.

Tehran Reports Missile Attacks

LD071106 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps announced in a statement: In response to the criminal enemy missile attacks today on the cities of Tehran, Qom, Esfahan, and Karaj the IRGC's missile unit today fired 10 surface-to-surface missiles at the enemy's military-economic targets in the city of Baghdad and the port of Umm Qasr.

Meanwhile, the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces announced: Between midnight and this morning, missile units of the Army of Islamic Republic fired three surface-to-surface missiles at military-economic establishments of the city of Basra, inflicting damage on the Zionist enemy.

According to the same report, the combatants of the Islamic Republic's Army brought under artillery fire the economic-military establishments of the cities of Basra, 'Ali Gharbi, Banmil, Khaneqin, Naft Khaneh, Qala Dizeh and the military garrison of al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq. They inflicted heavy casualties and damage on the Zionist enemy.

Iraqi City 'Heavily Bombed'

LD071117 Tehran Somestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced: In response to the air attacks of the enemy today, against the residential areas of several of our cities, the fast-flying pilots of the Islamic Republic Air Force, at noon today, heavily bombed the military and economic installations of the city of Qal'at Dizah, in Iraq, and after inflicting heavy losses and casualties on the Saddamists, returned safely to base.

IRGC Fires Missiles at Baghdad

LD080919 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 8, IRNA—The missile unit of the Air Force of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) fired two surface-to-surface missiles at two military centers in Baghdad at 10:05 and 10:07 hours local time (06:35 and 06:37 GMT) Friday, reported the IRGC Central Headquarters.

The report said that the missiles were fired in reprisal for enemy missile attacks on Tehran, Esfahan and the holy city of Qom Thursday night and Friday morning.

The IRGC Central Headquarters also warned that Iranian retaliatory attacks will continue until the enemy stops its criminal attacks against Iran's residential areas.

Iraqi Missiles Hit Tehran

LD071055 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—Residential areas in Tehran, Karaj, Qom, and Esfahan were hit by Iraqi missiles, and Dezful, Kuhdasht, Masjed-Soleyman, Shushtar, Pol-e Dokhtar and Hamadan and Tabriz were raided by Iraqi warplanes today.

Dozens of civilians including women and children were martyred and a group of others wounded in the attacks which also damaged two schools, several hospitals, houses and shops.

Casualty Report

LD071746 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Tehran, April 7, IRNA—More Iranian civilians including several children and women were martyred and some others wounded when the enemy missiled and air raided residential areas of Tehran, Esfahan, Karaj, Ilam, Tabriz, Bakhtaran, Dezful and Hendijan today afternoon.

Several houses and shops as well as five schools and two hospitals were damaged in the course of the savage Iraqi attacks.

Montazeri Visits Qom

LD080756 Tehran IRNA in English 0745 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] Qom, Central Prov., April 8, IRNA—Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri today visited the residential areas and educational centers hit by Iraqi missiles Thursday. Following his visit, the future leader of the Islamic revolution expressed sympathy with kins of martyrs of the enemy missile attack, paying tribute to the martyrs.

A junior school and a theological school were among the places hit by enemy missiles in Qom.

Residential areas in Tehran, Qom and Esfahan were struck by Iraqi missiles while enemy warplanes bombed the cities of Hamadan and Bakhtaran Thursday night and Friday morning as a result of which several civilians were martyred and wounded. Some houses and shops were also damaged in the Iraqi missile and air attacks.

Pakistan

Government Ready To Sign Accord on Afghanistan

BK071620 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] The Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, and the leader of the Kabul regime, Dr Najibullah, have called for the immediate signing of the Geneva accord on an Afghanistan settlement and said that they believed the last obstacle to an agreement has been removed. This is contained in a joint statement issued after their talks in Tashkent today.

In Geneva, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani, has welcomed the Soviet-Kabul statement. He said Pakistan is ready to sign the agreement if Kabul and the two guarantors are also ready to sign it.

President Addresses Joint Session of Parliament

Discusses Foreign Relations

BK071145 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed his full satisfaction over the performance of the present democratic government headed by the prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, and called for speeding up efforts for the creation of a true Islamic welfare state. He was addressing a joint sitting of the Parliament in Islamabad today to mark the beginning of the fourth parliamentary year.

The president expressed the hope that steps already initiated for the enforcement of the Islamic system would be accelerated and speedy and inexpensive justice provided to the people. He described the local bodies as a foundation of democratic setup and suggested that they be given full powers and encouragement.

Referring to the Afghanistan problem, the president said that an agreement could be signed in Geneva any time. He disclosed that according to unofficial reports received by him last night, an agreement has been reached between the United States and the Soviet Union on the question of symmetry providing for both sides to continue the assistance to their respective allies after signing of the agreement.

He said that Soviet Union had already agreed that the UN mediator, Mr Diego Cordovez, would work for an interim government in his personal capacity.

About relations with the Soviet Union, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said he was confident that after the solution of Afghanistan problem, relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union would further improve as there are bright prospects for cooperation in various fields between them.

He described the United States as an old ally with which Pakistan's basic understanding had never undergone any change. The two countries worked together for a noble task—for the solution of the Afghanistan problem.

About China, he said the passage of years has seen this friendship flourish and become more durable.

Issues Warning to Israel

BK071630 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the Geneva accord can be signed any time as, according to unofficial reports, both the Soviet Union and the United States have agreed on continuing to help their allies in Afghanistan after the agreement.

He was addressing the joint session of Parliament in Islamabad today to mark the beginning of the fourth parliamentary year. He said the Soviet Union has also agreed that the UN mediator, Mr Diego Cordovez, in his personal capacity would continue to work for establishment of an interim government in Afghanistan.

The president said we owe gratitude to the UN mediator, the UN secretary general, the United States, Saudi Arabia, China, members of the Islamic Conference Organization, the European Community, and Nonaligned Movement for their contribution on the Afghanistan problem. [passage omitted]

The president deplored Israeli barbarism against Palestinians in occupied Arab lands. He endorsed the proposal for convening an international conference on the Middle East.

He also condemned Israeli threat to Saudi Arabia and declared that any attack on the holy land will be considered an attack on the entire Muslim ummah [community].

He said the Iran-Iraq war should come to an end at the earliest, removing a great stumbling block in the way of unity of the Muslim ummah. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Denies Allegations of Assisting Sikhs

BK070238 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] Pakistan has reiterated that it strictly adheres to the policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, including India. A Foreign Office spokesman has strongly rejected the allegations that the Sikh extremists across the border have been given assistance [by Pakistan].

The spokesman made this statement when his attention was drawn to the allegations leveled by the Indian minister of state for external affairs and the governor of East Punjab. He said these allegations are incorrect, irresponsible, and mischievous. He said Pakistan is against any kind of terrorism.

Chief Minister of Sind Province Resigns

BK070318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 88

[Text] In Pakistan, the chief minister of Sind Province, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, has resigned. Last week, the president and the prime minister had asked Mr Shah to resign following adverse press comments about him. His refusal to step down created a political crisis in the ruling Pakistan Muslim League.

Romanian President in Karachi on Brief Visit

BK080256 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 8 Apr 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and his Romanian counterpart met in Karachi yesterday. They expressed satisfaction with the promotion of relations between the two countries. Later, the aides of the two leaders participated in the talks. An official spokesman said the leaders exchanged views on the regional and international situations and issues of developing countries, reflecting the identical views held by Pakistan and Romania.

The president hosted a dinner in honor of the Romanian president. Speaking on the occasion, the president lauded Romania's assistance in the economic development of Pakistan and said relations between the two countries are exemplary, and there is no political difference between them. The economic relations between Pakistan and Romania benefit both countries. The president said he has high hopes for his visit to Romania.

President Ceausescu said Romania is impatiently awaiting the visit of the Pakistani president. He said there are bright prospects for promoting friendly relations between the two countries, especially in the scientific, technological, and economic fields. He noted that there are harmonious views in many fields between the Pakistani and Romanian delegations.

Referring to his talks with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, the Romanian president said they exchanged views on some vital basic issues and they have arrived at the conclusion that issues can be solved through peaceful talks. He expressed the hope that the current visit will further strengthen and stabilize relations.

President Ceausescu left Karachi for Jakarta last night after a 5-hour stay. President Ziaul Haq and Sind Governor Ashraf Tabani bade him farewell at the airport.